



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## Identity of drugs case minister 'to be revealed within days'

The great secret which has been the key talking point at New Year parties - the identity of "Cabinet minister X" - could be settled within days. Colin Brown and Michael Streeter say the Government is keen to get it out in the open before Parliament returns.

The son of "Cabinet Minister X" who was accused of drug-dealing could be let off by the police with a caution within the next few days, freeing the minister to reveal his identity before the Commons returns from the New Year recess. Colleagues of the minister, whose identity has been an open secret around Whitehall and the subject of New Year party speculation across Britain, believe it is vital that the air is cleared before he is named under the cover of parliamentary privilege.

It is feared that a rebel Labour backbencher or an opposition party MP will use Commons privilege to name the minister or by tabling a Commons question or challenging the Prime Minister at Question Time about his position, unless he reveals his identity next week.

The Government believes the issue will be settled quickly if the minister is allowed publicly to defend his position, and his actions in taking his son to a police station after the boy was accused of selling £10-worth of cannabis to a reporter in a pub.

The minister's son is expected to be cautioned by the police and let off with a warning because of lack of evidence. Another boy who allegedly supplied the drug may be cautioned, and no action taken against the *Daily Mirror* journalist, Dawn Alford. That could enable the Cabinet minister to reveal his identity without being held in contempt of court for identifying the boy. Ministers believe that the identity of their colleague should be disclosed to avoid any charge in the Commons of an attempt at a cover-up. Mr X has made it clear that he wants to disclose his identity but has been following legal advice that it was impossible for him to do so until the charges against his son have been dealt with.

The minister, who spent New Year with his family at a house in the country, was last night back in London to hear about how one of his protection officers dealt with a fracas at a neighbour's house. *The Independent* has learned that a police officer stationed outside Mr X's home on New Year's Eve stopped a fight at a nearby house where gatecrashers attempted to disrupt a New Year party.

Both the minister and his family have been feeling the intense pressure surrounding the speculation about his identity, but sources close to him last night said there was no suggestion that he would switch portfolios or resign.

"The minister and his family have been under a lot of pressure, but they are bearing up. He is in a ridiculous position. But the fact is, he is prevented from saying anything by law. If that position changed, and there was no legal bar to him doing so, it would all become clear."

"He feels at the end of the day people will respect him for what he has done. He had a statement ready to release before he went down to the nick with the lad, but the lawyers, the son's solicitor and the Attorney-General all said you cannot do that," said the source.

The apparent recommendation by Scotland Yard that there should be no prosecution is based on concerns about being able to prove in court the charge of unlawful supply.

The two criteria by which prosecutors judge every case is whether first there is sufficient evidence to have a good chance of conviction, and secondly, whether it is in the public interest to go ahead with the case.

If there is sufficient evidence in a case of allegedly supplying drugs, even when it concerns small amounts, such as here, the prosecution will normally go ahead - unlike possession of small amounts, when a police caution is a common option. This suggests that the police in the minister's son's case, who have interviewed both the youth and Ms Alford, who bought the drugs, are unhappy about conflicts in the evidence.

You might think this Roman is stark raving mad.



But no. It's New Year's Day, the whole world over



First wave: An Italian dives into the Tiber from Rome's Cavour Bridge (top) and bather flee the sea at Scheveningen beach in The Netherlands (above left) and Whitley Bay in North-east England. Photographs: Luciano del Castillo/EPA, Serge Ligtberg/AP, Owen Humphreys/PA

### INSIDE TODAY



'Gagging for it might not be a Henry James phrase, but it's flashed in neon over every character'

FILM/15

PLUS Sports Calendar 98

### TODAY'S NEWS

#### Drugs tsar plans early education

Britain's new drugs "tsar" has told *The Independent*, in his first full interview since taking the job, that children as young as four should be taught about the dangers of narcotics. Keith Hellawell also says he is particularly concerned about dealers who deliberately lure young people into addiction by selling cheap heroin. Page 5

#### Innocence lost

A survey of more than 900 teenagers found that more than half the girls wish they had waited longer before losing their virginity, with many feeling they were pressed into it against their will. Among both sexes, curiosity was the most common reason given for having sex for the first time. Page 3

## Loyalists threaten more revenge killings

The New Year's Eve attack on a Belfast pub left one man dead, five injured and Ulster's damaged peace process balancing precariously on the precipice of sectarian strife. Louise Jury and Colin Brown report on the latest threat to the peace talks.

their statement warned: "This is not the end."

The attack by two masked men in the packed Clifton Tavern in a Catholic area of North Belfast, shortly after 4pm on Wednesday night, intensified the pressure on the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Mowlem, to offer a concession to the loyalists. They are demanding a full public inquiry into the INLA assassination of Billy Wright inside the high-security Maze prison.

Billy Hutchinson, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party, which is involved in the cross-party peace talks, warned that his party would pull out before the talks recommence on 12

January, unless Mr Mowlem made concessions to the Loyalists. He said he wanted concessions to be addressed at a meeting between the PUP and Irish ministers next Wednesday.

Demands for a public inquiry were put to Mr Mowlem by the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, at an angry meeting hours before the killing. She is considering the appeal and now might find the pressure for some concession to the loyalists too great to resist.

The pressure was intensified by the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, Andrew Mackay, who called for the planned internal inquiry into security at the Maze to be started immediately and for its remit to be widened.

The PUP is one of the parties which has expressed concern that the process has not been "even-handed" between Unionists and republicans.

Mr Hutchinson said that problem had to be addressed. "It would be my opinion that if they don't deal with that on 12 January, the PUP will be missing from the talks."

Fears are growing that the republicans will now feel obliged to retaliate for the two loyalist murders since Billy Wright was killed on Saturday. The Loyalist Volunteer Force carried out an attack on a crowded hotel within hours of

Wright's death, killing doorman Seamus Dillon, 45. It claimed responsibility for that attack.

The threat to the peace process is also increased by the risk that the loyalist ceasefire could end. Reports in Belfast suggest that when the prisoners released from the Maze for Christmas return to prison today, the UDA inmates will vote on whether to abandon the ceasefire. David Ervine, of the Ulster Progressive Unionist party which has links to the UVF, admitted there were people who wanted the ceasefire to end.

In an interview with BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, he blamed the British Government. "At the moment we're

seeing confidence building measures, concessions, doled out like sweets, outside the process. They should be housed within the process."

John Hume, the SDLP leader, said the object of the latest killings was to derail the talks. "That should strengthen the will not only of all the political parties but of the vast majority of people not to be knocked off course and to remain firmly committed to reaching agreement in a totally peaceful atmosphere."

Gerry Kelly, who is on the Sinn Féin team in the multi-party talks, condemned the pub attack, saying: "The peace process is shattered."

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CROSSWORDS Pages 22, 24  
WEATHER Page 2

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SEE IT. BE AMAZED. AND THEN SEE IT AGAIN.

FROM PAUL VERHOEVEN THE DIRECTOR OF ROBBY AND TOTAL RECALL

STARSHIP TROOPERS

STARTS TODAY AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

## COLUMN ONE

### Eyes down for great staff lootery draw

Lots of companies carry out spot checks to make sure their staff are not going home with the profits in their pockets. Now one chain of stores has decided to go a step further and introduce an element of fun into the process. Instead of the dull old routine of lining up to have their bags checked, staff will be able to pick coloured balls out of a bag to determine which lucky person will be the subject of a random search before going home. Yes, it's the National Lootery and it could be you.

The searches were introduced at Hobby Craft toy and model super-stores nationwide yesterday and will be carried out by security staff or management.

Once the store has closed for the day, staff will be required to form an orderly queue as the balls are selected one by one. A green ball allows the employee to go straight home without undergoing a search, a yellow one means an on the spot bag check, and red hits the jackpot - a search of the person's locker, bag and car.

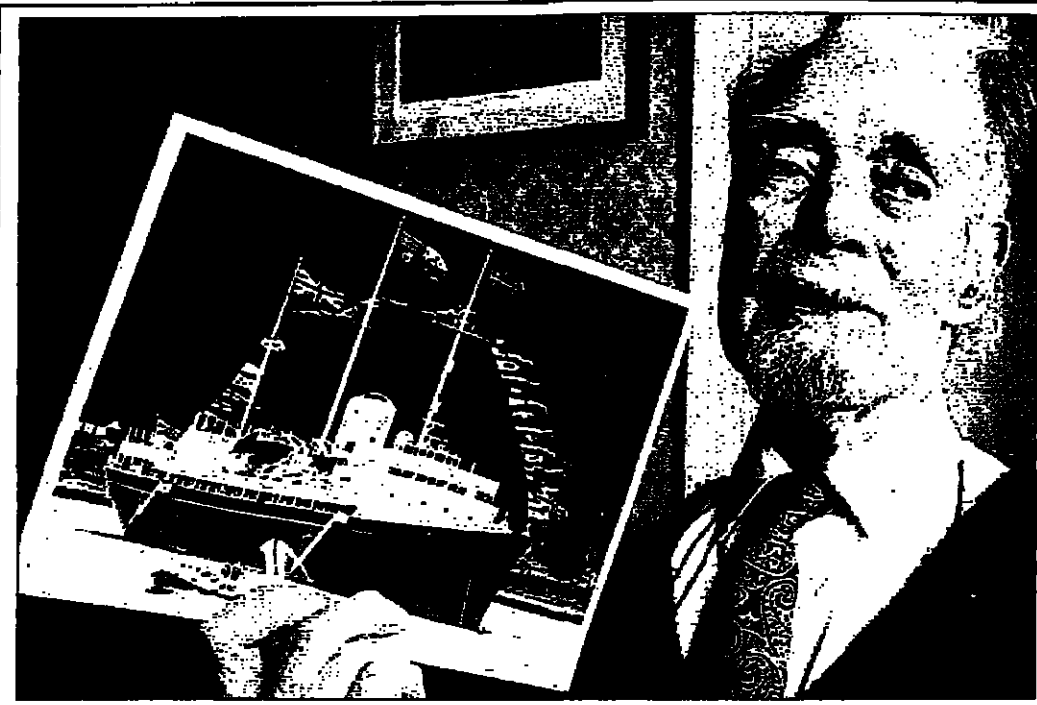
The scheme was revealed to staff in an internal memo, which while stressing there was "no problem in this store" read: "We have been requested by head office to carry out random searches. As I do not wish to embarrass any member of staff by singling them out I have decided that we should work the following system."

Once the ball has been selected and the area of the search decided, the duty manager then has the choice of searching either all or part of the designated areas.

The memo ends on the somewhat hopeful note: "I hope that I can rely on your co-operation to make this as painless for everyone as possible."

Kate Watson-Smyth

## PEOPLE



Shipping news: John Brown, 96, who led the design team at the Clyde yard that built the royal yacht *Britannia* in the 1950s, yesterday called for her to be scrapped to bring her life to a dignified end. The Government is considering two bids to base the yacht in Manchester or Edinburgh but Mr Brown said no commercial venture could preserve her properly. Photograph: PA

### Search for mother who abandoned baby

Police yesterday issued an appeal for help to find a mother who abandoned a new-born baby boy on New Year's Eve.

The child is just three days old and was discovered lying on a pavement in an alleyway behind garages in Leyton, east London. Doctors who are caring for the baby at Whipps Cross Hospital in east London, dubbed him "Robert Alan" after the two ambulance men who picked him up.

The infant, who is mixed race, was wrapped in a patterned shawl and dressed only in a pale green sleep suit. He still had a plastic yellow umbilical clip attached, which police believe has come from a local hospital or midwife.

They issued an urgent appeal for the mother to come forward or anyone who knew her to contact police.

Detective Inspector Phil Jones, of Leyton CID, said: "We are anxious to reunite the baby with its mother. I am particularly pleased that the baby has

been found fit and healthy, and that's good news for the New Year.

"We have checked all hospitals in the area in a bid to trace the mother but to no avail. We believe the baby could have been born in a hospital or by a midwife at home as the clip used to tie the umbilical cord was a type only available to medical staff."

The baby, who weighs 7lb 11oz, was heard crying by a man on his way to buy a lottery ticket.

Dr Iain Macintosh of Whipps Cross Hospital said: "It could be that the baby was born in a hospital or by medical staff at home. The child was in good condition, he was relatively warm and had probably only been out in the cold for about half an hour. It seems he had been well cared for."

"It is vital that the baby's mother comes forward and I am worried about her mental state."

Mr Jones said: "This is a beautiful baby boy who needs his mum. Let us make this a happy New Year for both mother and child by reuniting them."

## UPDATE

### HEALTH

#### NHS staff shortages hit 10,000

The NHS is short of nearly 10,000 doctors and nurses, the Liberal Democrats said yesterday. Dr Evan Harris, the party's health spokesman, said the figures are based on Department of Health releases and figures gathered by the House of Commons library. He claimed that in nine months in office, the Government had "not lifted a finger to fill these gaping holes in NHS staff shortages."

According to his findings, the NHS is short of 1,600 hospital doctors, more than 8,000 nurses, and there are nearly 1,000 GP vacancies. Cancelled operations also rose by 5 per cent between April and September. Dr Harris said: "These new figures show that the NHS is facing a staffing crisis this winter. With nearly 10,000 doctors and nurses missing from wards, a record number of operations have been cancelled."

The Liberal Democrat spokesman said Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, tried to paint a picture of cooperating within the NHS and treatment for all "but without the staff he is wasting his breath."

The Liberal Democrats want an increase in the number of medical and nursing students and public funding to pay for them, plus incentives for medical graduates to stay in the NHS and for students to go into nursing.

### INFANTS

#### Tests show breast milk is best

Babies who are breast fed and not given solid food too early turn out leaner, less prone to lung problems and with lower blood pressure, says research published yesterday in the *British Medical Journal*. The study of 545 children aged six to 10 in Dundee strongly confirmed the health benefits of mother's milk and infant feeding guidelines.

The research team, led by Dr Stewart Forsyth at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School, Dundee, found the probability of having respiratory illness was 17 per cent for children who were exclusively breast fed for at least 15 weeks. The risk rose to 32.2 per cent for wholly bottle fed babies. Solid feeding before 15 weeks was associated with an increased likelihood of wheeze in childhood and greater body fat and weight.

Current guidelines recommend that babies are exclusively breast fed for the first four months of life.

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**NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING**  
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

### TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.43	Italy (lira)	2,830
Austria (schillings)	20.13	Japan (yen)	211.79
Belgium (francs)	59.19	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.30	Netherlands (guilders)	3.22
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.85
Denmark (kroner)	10.99	Portugal (escudos)	200.49
France (francs)	9.58	Spain (pesetas)	242.00
Germany (marks)	2.87	Sweden (kroner)	12.74
Greece (drachmas)	456.01	Switzerland (francs)	2.33
Hong Kong (\$)	12.39	Turkey (lira)	328,403
Ireland (punts)	1.11	USA (\$)	1.61

Source: Thomson Cook  
Rates for indication purposes only

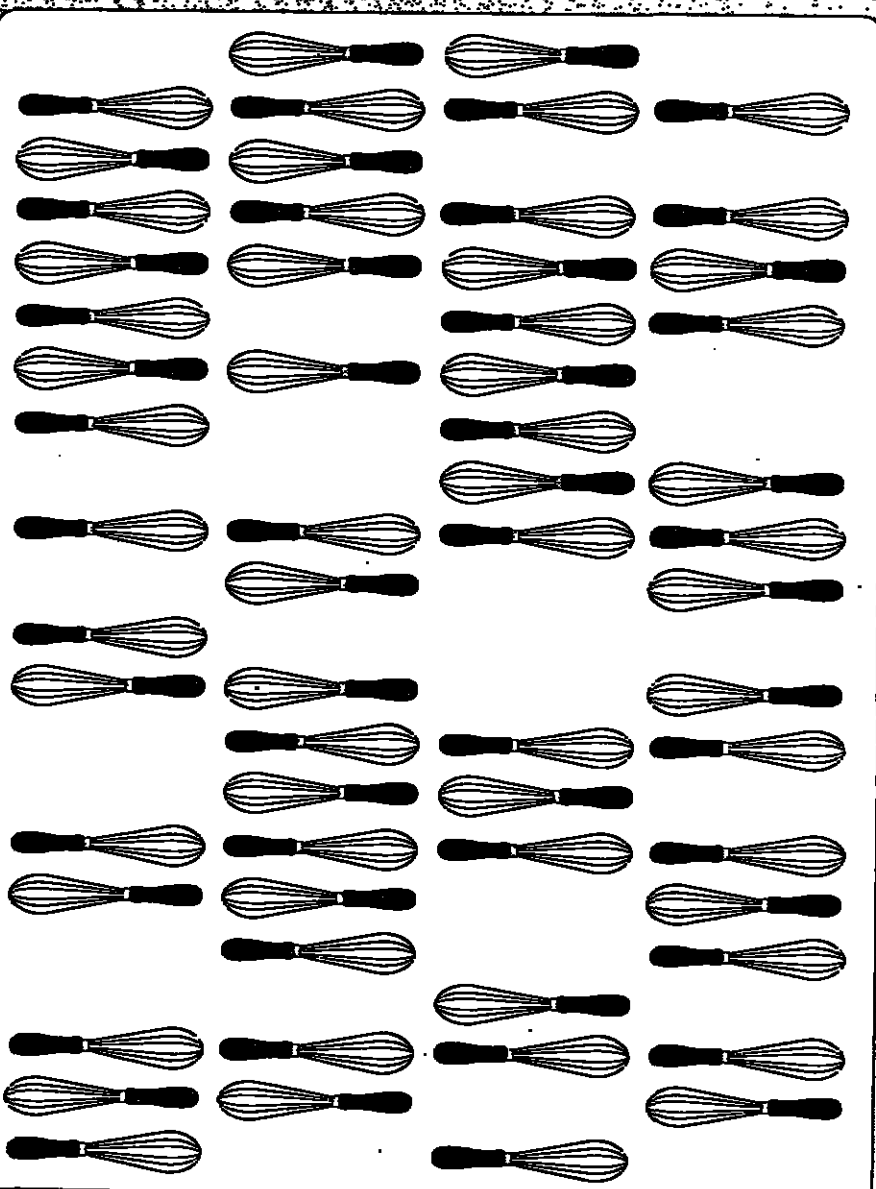
### ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman 7.30 FOR 8

by Chris Priestley



### WINTER SALE NOW ON

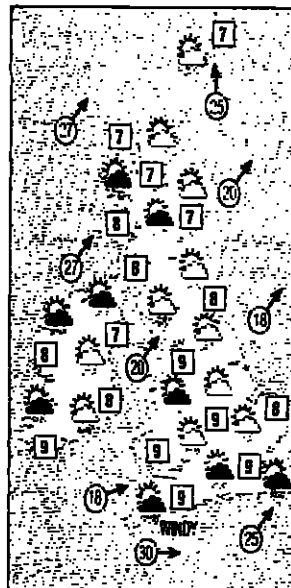


HEAL'S

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### WEATHER

#### The British Isles, noon today



General summary and outlook  
North-east Scotland will start cloudy with rain, but the wet weather will become confined to the Northern Isles. The rest of Scotland and much of England and Wales will start overcast and misty with some pockets of thick fog and local drizzle. Many places will stay cloudy but it should brighten up a shade, although in one or two spots the early fog may be reluctant to clear. In the south-west of England and south Wales a scattering of showers will develop, heavy in places.

It will stay reasonably mild with little or no overnight frost. More fog is likely on Sunday morning. This will slowly lift to leave a few sunny spells here and there, but it will remain on the cloudy side with a few showers in the west. Late in the day outbreaks of rain will reach south-west England, and this wet weather will extend slowly north-east on Monday, although much of Scotland and eastern England may not see the rain until Tuesday.

#### Lighting-up times

Today	Tomorrow
Belfast 15.59 to 8.44	Belfast 15.51 to 8.17
Birmingham 15.55 to 8.16	Birmingham 15.55 to 8.16
Bristol 16.03 to 8.13	Bristol 16.04 to 8.14
Glasgow 15.44 to 8.46	Glasgow 15.44 to 8.46
London 15.53 to 8.04	London 15.54 to 8.04
Manchester 15.51 to 8.23	Manchester 15.51 to 8.24
Newcastle 15.39 to 8.29	Newcastle 15.40 to 8.30

#### Air quality

Yesterday's readings	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>
London	Good	Good
S. England	Moderate	Good
Wales	Moderate	Good
C. England	Moderate	Good
N. England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Moderate

London, A1 between Watford Way, Mill Hill Circus and Fiveways Corner. Carriageway reduced to two lanes for long term roadworks. Until 31st May 1998.

Greater London, M1, between J6-J5, Watford area. Roadworks and a contraflow, with off peak and overnight lane and carriageway closures. A 50mph speed limit is also in place. Until 22nd December.

West Yorkshire, M1 J43-J42 Stourton to Luffhouse (M62). A contraflow and a 50mph speed limit are in place. Until 13th July 1998.

#### AA Roadwatch

Somerset, M5 J22-J23 Highbridge to Bridgewater. Major roadworks due to bridge repairs. A 3 mile contraflow is in place. Until 31st March 1998.

West Midlands, M6 J6 Birmingham. Long-term roadworks. Northbound entry slip to the M6 North closed at Salford Circus. Diversions in place.

West Yorkshire, M1 J43-J42 Stourton to Luffhouse (M62). Contraflow and speed limit are in place. (Until Jan 21 1998).

Greater Manchester, A56 Old Trafford Roadworks. Until 19th January 1998.

London, A2011 Blackheath Underpass. Contraflow. Until 15th April 1998.

Bristol, M5 J15-J19. Contraflow in operation across the Avonmouth Bridge with a 50mph speed limit. Regular rush-hour delays. Until 1st January 1999.

#### Outlook for today

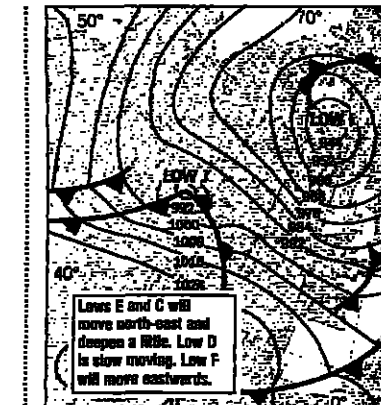
SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>
London	Good
S. England	Moderate
Wales	Moderate
C. England	Moderate
N. England	Good
Scotland	Good
N. Ireland	Good

#### High tides

London	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	5:28	6.5	17:58	6.5
Liverpool	2:50	8.2	15:06	8.2
Avonmouth	10:51	11.2	23:15	10.6
Hull (Albert Dock)	10:12	7.6	22:16	7.8
Greenock	4:26	3.1	16:13	3.5
Dun Laoghaire	3:31	3.6	15:49	3.8

Get out and about with AA Roadwatch call 0336 401 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 30p per min (cheaper rate) 49p per min (all other times) inc VAT.

#### Atlantic chart, noon today



#### World weather

World weather	most recent available figure at noon local time.
Athens	13.55
Auckland	21.70
B. Aires	18.04
Bangkok	32.90
Barcelona	13.55
Beirut	15.59
Belgrade	12.54
Bombay	31.88
Brussels	8.46
Buenos Aires	4.39
Cairo	16.01
Cape Town	25.77
Cebu	28.64
Christchurch	21.70
Copenhagen	3.37
Curacao	14.87
Darwin	28.92
Dhaka	19.66
Florence	12.54
Frankfurt	8.46
Gosnora	7.45
Hankow	12.55
Helsinki	-4.25
Hong Kong	26.79
Kobe	8.48
Kuala Lumpur	15.59
London	14.57
Los Angeles	20.68
Madras	8.46
Manila	14.57
Medan	18.64
Montevideo	32.90
Moscow	1.16
Mumbai	-1.30
Munich	3.37
Nice	15.59
Osaka	16.43
Paris	8.46
Prague	2.38
Rangoon	-1.30
Rio de Janeiro	14.57
Riyadh	18.64
Rome	14.57
Seoul	2.38
Singapore	29.84
Sydney	21.70
Taipei	21.70
Tokyo	16.43
Ulaanbaatar	14.57
Vancouver	14.57
Warsaw	14.57
Washington	14.57
Wellington	14.57
Zurich	14.57

#### Sun and moon

Sun rise	Sun set
8:03	15:53
Moon rise	22:58
Moon set	11:28

Last quarter: Dec 21

Apology: Due to a production problem information in yesterday's weather panel was reproduced in error from an earlier date.



## Curse of the Kennedys claims its latest victim

Yet again, tragedy has struck at America's version of royalty, with the death in a skiing accident in Colorado of Michael Kennedy, son of the assassinated Senator Robert Kennedy. Rupert Cornwell looks at a family beset by fame and disaster in equal measure

If his surname had been Jones or Brown, his passing would have been unremarked — just another skier who lost control, crashing into a tree on Wednesday as he hurtled down a slope at Aspen Mountain, injuring himself fatally. Not though if that surname belongs to a family called Kennedy. As in John F Kennedy. Then you are victim of The Curse, paying the ultimate price for hubris past.

The story goes back almost 60 years, when Joseph Kennedy Senior, grandson of Irish immigrants, philanthropist, tycoon, bootlegger and backer of Franklin Roosevelt, realised his own political ambitions had been wrecked by his readiness to appease Hitler while ambassador to London. Instead he dedicated all his might and means, fair and foul, to make one of his children president. Joe would succeed, but at a price he could not imagine.

Already in 1941 his daughter Rosemary had been placed in a mental home after a failed lobotomy. But worse would follow in 1944 when Joseph Jr, the apple of his father's eye and repository of his vicarious ambition, was killed in a plane crash while serving in Britain with the US Air Force. Another daughter, Kathleen, would die in France in another air crash in 1948. But the mantle of expectation had passed to his second son, John, who would use his own charm and ruthlessness — and his father's money and strings — to make it to the White House in 1961. But on 22 November 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald struck in Dallas.

Less than five years later, half paralysed by an earlier stroke, Joe would watch a third son die, when Robert was shot dead in a Los Angeles hotel on 4 June 1968, just as he won the California Democratic primary to place the presidency firmly in his sights. That August, his remaining son Edward, 33-year-old Massachusetts senator, sat in Chicago with his advisers on the eve of the Democratic convention, pondering whether to use the outpouring of sympathy



Michael Kennedy (second right) flanked by members of his family at a tribute in 1992 to Robert, his father who was assassinated in 1968. Photograph: Amy Sanctetta

to make a bid for the nomination himself.

No, they decided; wait for 1972, or better still 1976. But The Curse would not be denied. The very next year Teddy drove a car off a bridge on the island of Chappaquiddick, Massachusetts, and ran from the scene as his staffworker Mary Jo Kopechne was drowned. His hopes of the White House were gone, and the first big dent was made in America's hitherto unquestioning romance with the Kennedys. Thereafter the misfortunes would continue. But increasingly they would be self-inflicted.

For many younger Kennedys, unearned celebrity and comparisons with political titans past were burdens too heavy to bear. In 1973, Teddy's son Edward lost a leg because of cancer. That same year, Robert's son Joe was involved in a car accident which left a female passenger paralysed for life. Another son, Robert Jr, was caught with drugs while a teenager, while yet another, David, died of a drug overdose in 1984.

The episodes merely added credibility to the less flattering portrait of the earlier Kennedys emerging in a string of books and personal memoirs. These dwelt not on the glitz of Camelot, but the consuming Kennedy lusts for power and sex, and their congenital disregard for women. By 1986, Edward's son Patrick was undergoing treatment for cocaine addiction. In 1991

his nephew William Kennedy Smith went on trial for rape. William was acquitted, but not before revelations of drinking sessions with his uncle that cemented Teddy's image as an alcohol-drenched lecher.

And thus to Michael Kennedy, who until last year was regarded as a rising political star in his own right. Then came allegations of an affair with the family's 14-

year-old babysitter and his own admission of alcoholism. Now Michael is dead — and the family's power and prestige is at its lowest ebb in three-quarters of a century.

Edward Kennedy surely will not seek a seventh full Senate term in 2000, when he will be 68. Robert's son Joseph, self-appointed standard-bearer of the younger Kennedys, but in truth a pompous Congressional lightweight, has been forced to withdraw from the state's 1998 Governors race after woman trouble of his own. JFK's son John Jr, noted for his looks rather than his intellect, is one younger Kennedy who has kept his head. Conceivably he might use his politico-celebrity magazine *George* as a springboard for a political career. But the pick of the bunch could be Patrick, who has overcome his cocaine problems to be a second-term Congressman for Rhode Island. But if he goes any higher, it will be thanks to merit, not myth.

### AMERICA'S TRAGIC DYNASTY

JOSEPH P. KENNEDY JR.: Died in plane crash during the Second World War, aged 29.  
KATHLEEN KENNEDY: Married William John Robert Cavendish, the Marquess of Hartington. She later died in a plane crash, aged 28.  
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR.: Assassinated in Dallas on 22 Nov 1963, aged 46.  
ROBERT F. KENNEDY: Assassinated in June 1968, aged 43.  
DAVID KENNEDY: Son of Robert, died in 1984 of a drug overdose in a hotel after being thrown out of the family holiday home at Palm Beach.  
MICHAEL KENNEDY: Gained notoriety for an alleged 1996 affair with his family's babysitter, was killed in a skiing accident on New Year's Eve. He was 39.

### TOMORROW

#### IN THE MAGAZINE

If it's January it must be The Outback... top writers on 12 top destinations

#### TIME OUT

The lure of Zanzibar, Redford's ski heaven

### NEXT WEEK

The Century in photographs From Monday for 98 days in The Eye, 98 years of historic pictures

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## Peer-group pressure and why most women regret saying yes to teenage sex

Many teenage girls having sex for the first time do so reluctantly, under duress, because they do not have the will to resist. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, examines a study which suggests most women regret the early loss of their virginity.

The first sexual experience is invariably disappointing — but that is almost the only point about it on which girls and boys agree.

A study of more than 900 teenagers found widely diverging perceptions between the sexes of how their first sexual encounter had occurred. Pressure from men, curiosity and drink push many young women into doing what they later regret.

Women were more likely to report being forced — one in 14 of the total sample rising to one in four of those under 14 — and less likely to say that they were "equally

willing". Fewer than one in six men but more than half the women thought they should have waited longer before losing their virginity. Women were more likely than men to say they were "carried away by their feelings" as the reason for having sex, while men were more likely to say they wanted to lose their virginity.

Women who had their first experience of intercourse when under 16 said the main reason was that most people of their age were doing it. Most of these had sex with an older boy but for all age groups, when

both partners were having sex for the first time, there was less discrepancy between the sexes about the willingness with which the encounter was entered into.

The study, conducted in New Zealand and published in the *British Medical Journal* echoes the findings of previous British research. An Economic and Science Research Council study in 1990 found many girls who reported having been under pressure to have sex for a long time who finally submitted, usually when drunk, because they had run out of reasons for resisting.

Often the poor quality of their first experience left them with no desire to repeat it.

In that study, the girls aged from 16 to 21, spoke eloquently of the social pressures on them. One said: "I just thought I'm sick of Mandy who is bonking all the time and me not getting nothing. So I says it's time to do it. He was being really nice and I thought I'll risk him not wanting to see me again. So I did." Another said: "It was a matter of saying 'no' lots and lots of times and then sort of going to sleep because

I wouldn't be able to handle it."

In the New Zealand study, the researchers from the University of Otago medical school found the average age of first intercourse was 16 in the girls (compared with 17 in Britain) and 17 in the boys. Almost a third of the women who lost their virginity before the age of 16 reported having had a sexually transmitted disease at some point since.

The authors say the results showing most women regret early intercourse "need to be considered by young people themselves".

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## Man questioned over headless body

A man was being questioned last night in connection with the death of a teenager whose headless body was found dumped in a bin in Blackpool.

But detectives stressed they were still hunting for whoever might have killed Christopher Hartley, 17, and dismembered his corpse.

The 29-year-old man being held in Blackpool was arrested in Salford, Greater Manchester, on Wednesday night.

Christopher, from Burnley, Lancashire, had held jobs at the Pleasure Beach fun-fair and on stalls in the resort. Tests have so far been unable to show how he died. His head has not been found.

## Partner charged

The partner of Lisa Blunt, 23, a mother of four who was reported missing 10 days ago, appeared before magistrates yesterday charged with her murder. Vincent Shilton, 29, of Bestwood, Nottingham, was remanded in custody at a special sitting of the city's Magistrates Court. Police believe a charred body found two days ago in Bulwell, Nottingham, is that of Ms Blunt.



Crowd puller: An inflatable of cartoon character Olive Oyl in Whitehall during yesterday's London Parade Photograph: Philip Meech

## Britain 'is spying on EU partners'

Britain spies on her own European partners, a former senior intelligence officer claims.

The officer, who cannot be identified, told Michael Cockrell, the maker of a television documentary: "Of course, we are all spying on each other. You need belt and braces, collateral on collateral. It would be as vital to know where your European partners are coming from, as it was to know the order of battle of Soviet forces during the Cold War."

The documentary, *How to be Foreign Secretary*, is to be shown on BBC 2 on Sunday evening. Its disclosures will come as a shock to pro-Europeans who would never have dreamed that Britain is allegedly involved in espionage within the EU.

During the programme, neither the present Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, nor his predecessors, denied suggestions that Britain operates a spy network in Europe.

When Mr Cook himself was asked whether Britain received intelligence from her European partners, he replied: "No I'm sorry. I can't talk about that because it is all secret information. We never discuss that."

And Douglas Hurd, now Lord Hurd, who was Foreign Secretary for nearly six years until 1995, was equally reticent.

When he was asked the same question, he seemed to be taken aback. He is shown biting his lip and scratching his thigh. "I don't want to go into that. That's operational. I can't, can't, can't get into that," he insisted.

Lord Renwick, the former British Ambassador to Washington, was adamant that the French, for instance, would not spy on Britain. But when he was asked whether Britain would spy on them, he replied: "Ah, that's a separate question. You'll have to ask, er, whoever..."

He added: "We have intelligence coverage of all really important negotiations that Britain is involved in. Sometimes the information is extremely useful - sometimes you know it all already."

William Waldegrave, a Foreign Office minister under the Tories, said: "The Secret Intelligence Service is very useful to the Foreign Secretary. It can't do miracles but it does provide a most extraordinary additional source of good information."

"What you must not do is become James-Bondish about it. And their people are extremely skilful at warning you that not everything that you get on an intercept - or hear on a tape of what some foreign leader said in his bath - is necessarily the full story."

## Rebel Labour MEPs accuse party machine of dirty tricks

Two rebel Labour MEPs opposed to plans to reform the welfare state accused party spin doctors of dirty tricks when it appeared they had defected to the Green Party. Labour sources insisted the President of the European Parliament was convinced Ken Coates and Hugh Kerr had switched groups - opening them to immediate expulsion from the party.

Party sources this week urged the two to resign before they were expelled, but Mr Coates said the situation was being wrongly "spun" to the media by Labour as though he had made a decision "of great moment". In fact, he said, he would like to stay in the Socialist Group "for ever and ever" if it would have him, but had been forced by European Parliament bureaucracy to consider taking up an offer from the Greens of "honorary" membership. Currently he "hadn't a clue" which group he now officially belonged to.

But Labour sources accused

him of "backpeddling on a technicality. It will impress no-one". They insisted the President of the European Parliament, Jose Maria Gil-Robles Gil-Delegado, Labour MEP and Socialist group leader Pauline Green and European Parliamentary Labour Party (EPLP) leader Wayne David were all convinced the two men had left the Socialist group and joined the Greens. Departure from the Socialist group would automatically see the two out of the EPLP.

If they had joined the Greens, then the question of whether that has earned them automatic expulsion from Labour itself was not immediately clear. But Labour sources said they were sure pressure would now build on the two men to leave the party. Mr Coates' local party chairman said he should "do the decent thing" by standing down and fighting a by-election.

— Colin Brown

## Tanker runs aground

An unladen chemical tanker has gone aground in storm conditions off Torbay, coastguards said yesterday. The 22,000-ton *Santa Anna* - from Greece, but registered in Panama - dragged an anchor and went aground on the seaward side of Thatcher's Rock, Devon, said Portland coastguards. The vessel, carrying a crew of 29, was still sound and in clean ballast.

The *Santa Anna* went aground in rough seas and

winds gusting to more than 50mph. She was carrying clean ballast, but also 200 tonnes of fuel oil and 50 tonnes of lubricating oil.

The Marine Pollution Control Unit had been informed and was monitoring the situation, said coastguards. There were no plans yet to take any of the crew off the vessel.

The crew are understood to be Spanish, and the boat had been moored in Torbay.

## DAILY POEM

### Self portrait with National Lottery winnings after a Roll-Over Jackpot

By Simon Armitage

*Numbers, there on the screen, were the self-same:  
the date of my birth expressed as a sum,  
the rate of my heart while perfectly calm,  
my height in feet, my weight to the nearest stone,  
the teeth in my head, the women I've known.*

*Stark-bollock-naked except for a hat,  
sunk to the waist in a slag-heap of cash,  
I'm rolling a joint with a fifty-pound note  
to blow nought after nought in rings of smoke.*

*The artist breaks off from his easel for a piss.  
A mirror on the wall, face on, gives back  
me in the pink, in paint, and me in flesh.*

*It's hard to tell the fraction from the whole,  
I think: which makes up which, what gives, if that divides  
by this, or this by that, or that by this.*

This week's poems come from the five volumes shortlisted for the 1997 Whitbread Poetry Award. The winner will be announced next Tuesday, 6 January, along with the other Whitbread winners for biography, fiction and first novels. Simon Armitage's poem is taken from his *CloudCuckooLand* (Faber, £7.99).

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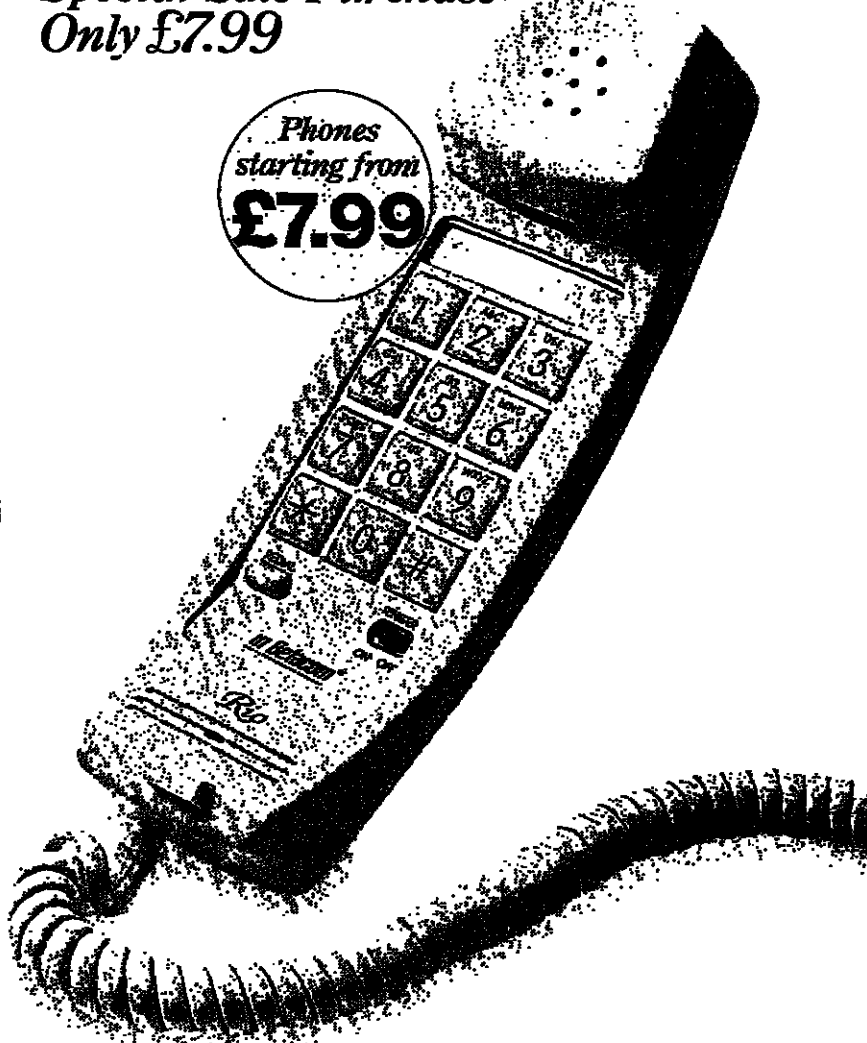
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صكنا من الامل



## Teach infants the danger of drugs, says new 'tsar'

Children as young as four should be taught about the dangers of narcotics, says the new drugs 'tsar' in his first full interview. Jason Bennett, Crime Correspondent, hears Keith Hellawell's plans for a new national strategy for the millennium.

The problem of dealers who deliberately lure young people into addiction by selling them cheap heroin is among the new drugs tsar's most pressing concerns. Keith Hellawell, 55, who takes over the post as UK Anti-drugs Co-ordinator on Monday, also wants more education in schools to tell children about the consequences of taking illegal substances.

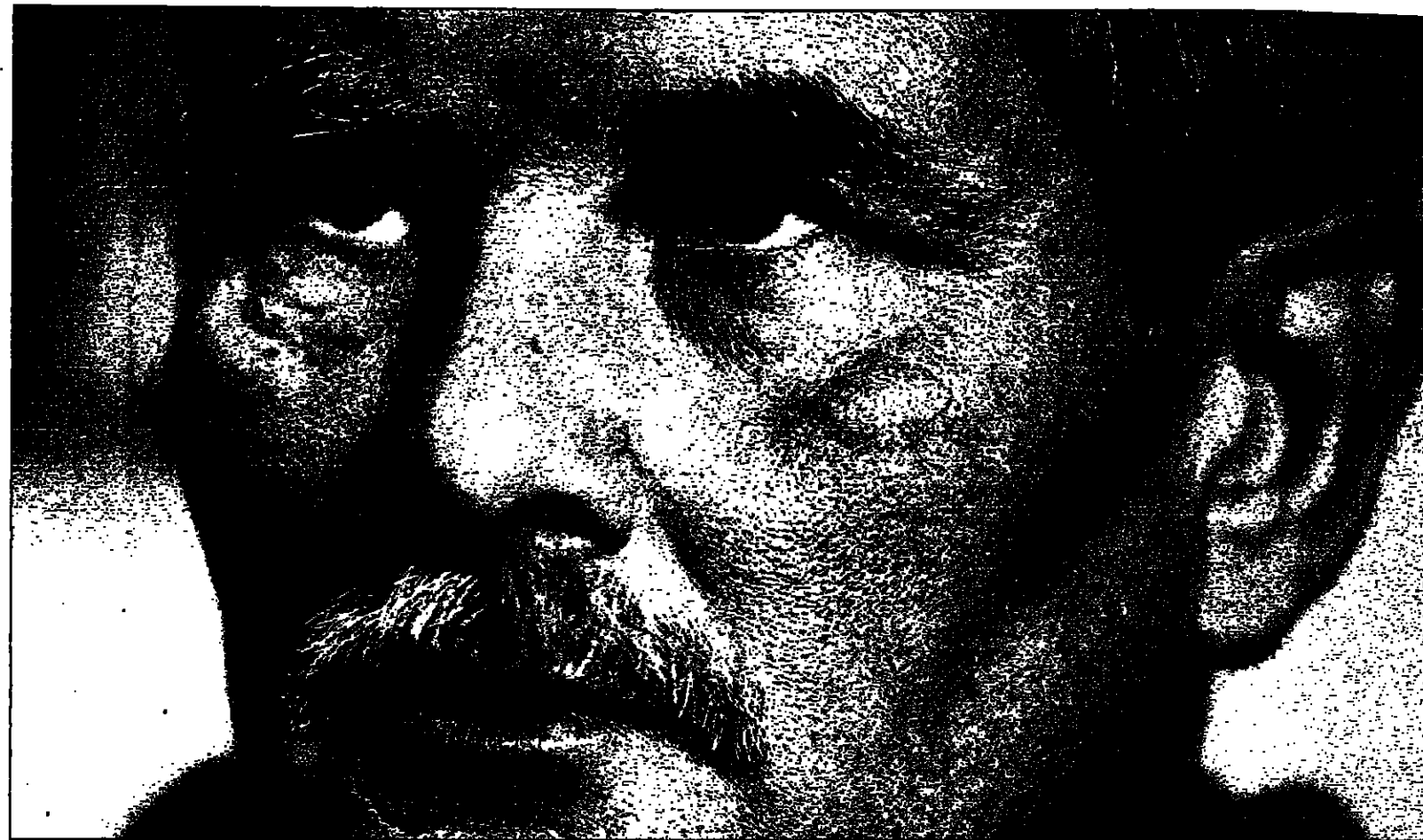
He told *The Independent*: "Some work should start as early as four."

"There are some young people who begin primary school who have a drug addict and regular drug taker in their family. [They] have a substantial knowledge of drugs and their effects at the age of four."

"There are others at nine years who do not know the first thing about drugs."

"It's because of that sort of complexity that we cannot give a blanket treatment."

"We are now starting to see that there's a need for young people to understand the effects of drugs on their bodies at an early age," he added.



Keith Hellawell: 'Dealers like heroin because young people get addicted to it relatively quickly, get hooked and keep coming back for more'

Photograph: David Rose

He argued that a better understanding could help children "delay experimentation with drugs."

Considered a controversial, but forward thinking person, Mr Hellawell, currently the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, will be aided by his

deputy, Michael Trace, 36, currently Director of the Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoners' Trust, and a staff of just six. The drug chief will have direct access to the Prime Minister but no new money.

After 36 years as a policeman, Mr Hellawell has made a flying

start to his new £102,000-a-year job. Last month he met ministers to present preliminary findings about government spending on drugs. He plans to propose a national drugs strategy in April. "I felt it was important we had something to take forward into the millennium."

"I'm not going to come out with motherhood and apple pie statements. It will be sharp and realistic and objective. You have got to deliver."

It will be followed in about a year with targets for agencies and departments.

He added: "The question is,

what is the vision? Where do we want to go in five or ten years time?" And he called for a "holistic" approach to treatment. He said future strategies should include targeting homes, schools, colleges, and work and leisure places.

One of his greatest con-

cerns is the rise in the popularity and availability of heroin.

"It's becoming the drug of the first choice among many young people and the cost in many of our cities is sometimes lower than cannabis, ecstasy and LSD," he said. "The dealers like heroin because young people get addicted to it relatively quickly, get hooked and keep coming back for more."

Mr Hellawell also wants to examine the expansion of the use of treatment centres and counselling for addicts.

He believes addictive drugs are one of the biggest problems. "In the first instance we need to look at areas where we can have the biggest pay-off - with crack cocaine and heroin users."

But, dismissing any suggestion that he supports the decriminalisation of drugs, he stressed: "This does not mean we should ignore other areas such as cannabis and ecstasy use."

## Seizures double in a year as traffickers turn to Channel tunnel

The Channel tunnel is the fastest growing route for drug trafficking, unpublished figures reveal. Jason Bennett, Crime Correspondent, talks to customs officers about changing tactics and the new threat.

Seizures of drugs being smuggled under the Channel have doubled in the past year, statistics obtained by *The Independent* reveal. The amount of cocaine found on vehicles being brought to Britain through the tunnel has leapt sevenfold in the past 12 months, more than four times as much heroin has been confiscated and three times the quantity of cannabis. The value of the

drugs snatched has doubled since 1996 to about £16.8m-worth at street prices in 1997. Customs officers say that drug traffickers are increasingly targeting the tunnel. The undersea network is considered to have several advantages for the smugglers including hiding the origin of the couriers as everyone comes through France.

Among the recent trends noticed by Customs are an increase in age of the couriers - a 75-year-old Dutchman was found with 7.5kg of cocaine hidden in his caravan - and traffickers pretending to be businessmen.

The smugglers are also becoming more ingenious about hiding their illegal goods. For example in October 7kg of cocaine was found hidden in the front seat passenger's emergency airbag and a Brazilian woman hid cocaine in plaster casts on her legs.

Ever since the tunnel was opened in November 1994 there has been fear that it would become a major route for drug trafficking. Andrew Filmer, of the Customs and Excise Tourist Anti-Smuggling division at Coquelles, near Calais, which checks people with vehicles entering Britain, said: "We're finding a lot more Class A drugs such as heroin and cocaine, which is reflecting the increase demand. There's growing confidence about using the tunnel to bring in drugs. There's also more smugglers dressing up as businessmen as a cover."

Bob Arthurs, head of Customs and Excise at Waterloo International, which deals with foot passengers on the Eurostar, said couriers swallowing packages of cocaine or hiding them inside their body was still a popular method of smuggling at the mo-

ment. "The numbers and amounts are steadily going up, people are becoming more aware of the advantage of Eurostar and how it can help lose their identity."

For example traffickers from South American countries that have drug connections are attempt to disguise where they have come from by travelling through several countries. A typical route is from Brazil to Portugal, Spain and then France. Most of the smugglers, however, are British, Dutch, and German.

Among the smugglers recently caught include a man from Amsterdam who was found to have swallowed 91 packages of cocaine wrapped in condoms, which took a week to pass through his body. He later got six years in jail.

On 31 December, a 51-year-old German woman was stopped in Waterloo. Inside the

lining of her suitcase officers found 4.5kg of heroin, worth about £500,000, and the largest ever haul at the station. The narcotics are believed to be from Turkey and were on their way to one of the Turkish drug families in north London.

The street value of the drugs seizure by British customs officers based at Coquelles near Calais, have increased from £7.7m in 1996 to at least £15.1m this year. The number of commercial or large seizures rose from 16 to 27, pornography finds rose from 22 to 49 and firearms and illegal weapons went up from five to 11.

Heroin showed the biggest leap from 15kg to 68.5kg, cocaine rose from 4kg to 28kg, cannabis was 542kg last year, this year it was 1,400 kg, while the amount of ecstasy fell from 142kg to 28kg, although the 1996 total included one seizure of 141kg.

### Drugs

The value of drugs seized from both passengers and vehicles using the tunnel.

	1996	1997
	£8.7m	£16.8m

The amount of drugs seized from visitors bringing vehicles into the tunnel and in freight.

	1996 (Kgs)	1997 (Kgs)
Heroin	15	68.5
Cocaine	4	28
Cannabis	542	1,400
Ecstasy	142	28

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## Hereditary peers could stand as MPs

The historic bar on hereditary peers sitting in the Commons is likely to be lifted under the Government's reforms for the House of Lords. As a Cabinet committee gets down to business, Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says hereditary peers could be allowed to stand for election for the first time.

Hereditary peers who are barred from voting at general elections could be allowed to stand for seats in the House of Commons under the Government's plans for reform of the House of Lords.

Cabinet sources have told *The Independent* that it is likely that having deprived the hereditaries of their voting rights as part of the reform to the House of Lords, they should be able to stand for the House of Commons and vote for the first time in elections.

Peers are barred from voting and standing for election to the Commons, along with the insane and criminals, because they are represented in the House of Lords. But when they cease to be eligible to vote in the Lords, the hereditary peers would have no representation, unless a change in the law was allowed.

A Cabinet source said: "The reason that peers are disqualified from standing in elections is because they already have power in the Lords. There are various suggestions being made about the hereditaries, about whether they could lose their voting rights but keep their speaking rights."

"That would leave the hereditary peers in a sort of limbo. It would be logical to say they should be allowed to vote and stand for elections to the Commons if they lose their rights to vote in the House of Lords."

Michael Ancram, the Conservative spokesman on constitutional affairs, could be directly affected. As the Earl of



Marquess of Bath (left) and Tony Benn both support giving the vote to peers barred from voting in the Lords

Ancram, he is the heir to the title of the Marquess of Lothian and has told friends that if he inherited the title he would still wish to stand in the Commons. "There should be a change in the law," he said.

Under the present rules, he would have to renounce his peerage to do so, but he would

be ready to amend the legislation, if necessary, to make sure that the reform of the Lords enables hereditary peers to stand for the Commons.

The Marquess of Bath, a supporter of Lords reform and a Liberal Democrat peer with a hereditary title dating back to 1789, said it would be a logical move. "I don't see myself standing now. My feeling is that there is no justification for hereditary peers in the House of Lords but it would be logical to allow them to stand for the Commons."

It would also avoid embarrassing dilemmas for MPs who inherit titles. Tony Benn MP, who changed the law to renounce his title as Viscount Stansgate for his lifetime, also saw the logic of allowing hereditary peers to stand for the Commons, when they lose their voting rights in the Lords.

Cabinet policy papers are being prepared and ministerial sources said the Cabinet

committee would be getting down to business early in the New Year. Changes would be made before the end of the Parliament, in spite of the packed list of Government business, said the source. But left-wingers are likely to demand more radical changes to make the Lords an elected chamber.

Mr Benn was on Wednesday getting his teeth into the Prime Minister's powers of patronage in the wake of the New Year Honours List. He said the last 10 prime ministers had appointed 900 life peers. "Anyone who is hoping for a peerage will say nothing and do nothing that might upset the Prime Minister," he said on BBC radio.

"When you get patronage—without suggesting anything improper—it is corrupt. I have known civil servants recommending businessmen for some honour and then when they retired, they got a job on the board," he said.



Success story: Jobeda Ali Photograph: Geoff Robinson

## How to succeed in a white world: one woman's tale

People like Jobeda Ali do not usually expect to go to Cambridge University. She is the daughter of a mother who can neither read nor write, a second-generation immigrant from Bangladesh, and was educated at east London state schools. Judith Judd, Education Editor, explains how she did it.

Jobeda Ali has overcome most types of disadvantage on the way to her upper second class degree at Trinity College, Cambridge. When she applied to Cambridge four years ago, she was told she needed three grade Bs at A-level to secure her place—unlike most of her fellow applicants who were told they needed either two or three As.

The offer was made under a special entry scheme for disadvantaged pupils. But it proved unnecessary. Jobeda gained three grade As.

Four years on, Jobeda has a new job as administrator of the group to encourage ethnic minority applicants (Geema) to the university. She is clear about her role. "I'm not interested in statistics. My aim is to ensure that black and Asian students can see enough black and Asian faces to feel comfortable here."

She remembers vividly her first invitation to coffee on her first day at Cambridge. She expected to walk in and socialise in her normal way but found herself tongue-tied. "It took me two weeks to work out what was wrong. I had never before been in a room where every other person was white."

The gap between Cambridge and some ethnic minority groups is hard for outsiders to grasp, she says. Her mother, who cannot read, write, or speak English, had never heard of Cambridge and didn't want her daughter to go. "Her reaction was 'why don't you stay in London and live at home? You

could go to university here'." One of the big differences between a public schoolboy from Eton who comes to Cambridge and herself, she says, is the level of parental interest. "It wasn't just the case that I had no one to help with my maths homework. No one even asked me what I had done at school."

If she tried to read, her mother took away the book and said she should be doing something more useful. Even now, her mother is looking out for a suitable husband for her.

Secretly, Jobeda says, she had always wanted to try for Oxbridge, though she scarcely dared admit it to herself. When students from the group she now runs came to Tower Hamlets College where she was doing her A-levels, she was suddenly given the confidence to apply.

Her present job is to run a programme of events to persuade people like her to feel the same way. She also has plans for student-shadowing to show ethnic minority pupils a day in the life of a Cambridge student. A new video and prospectus are being sent out.

For a decade, the university's message to anxious ethnic minority and state school students has been: the *Brideshead* image is wrong; there are plenty of people like you here.

Jobeda argues that, of course, black and Asian people need to feel comfortable at Cambridge "but that doesn't mean they all want to rush off to dinner at the Indian Society. Some want the traditional things. I love punting. I love strawberries and champagne and I love May balls."

She knows that raising the proportion of black and Asian students—currently 11 per cent—will not be easy. "Take a white public school boy and myself. We both have an upper second from Trinity. We both go for the same job. We appear to be equal. But we are not. I am four times better than he is. I have the same degree but I have overcome the gender barrier, the class barrier and the race barrier."

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## Come right in, US tells baseball refugee

A former Cuban baseball star was cleared to enter America yesterday after escaping from Cuba by boat. Five of his fellow passengers are unlikely to be so lucky. *Mary Dejevsky* asks if the US operates double standards when offering asylum to Cubans.



Orlando Hernandez: 'Close ties' to the United States

Few would argue that Orlando Hernandez did not constitute a special case. "El Duque" (the Duke), was a star pitcher for Cuba's national baseball team, one of Cuba's elite. But that came to an end two years ago, when his younger brother, Livan, also a baseball star, defected to the United States.

While Livan rose to stardom in his adopted country, helping the outsiders, the Florida Marlins, to victory in the 1997 World Series, Orlando was banned from his national team, harassed by officials and blamed for his brother's escape.

Early on 26 December, Orlando, his girlfriend, Noris Bosch, and six others left Cuba in a small sailing boat, hoping

to reach Florida. But the boat started to take on water and they were forced to land on the remote Anguilla Cay on the fringe of the Bahamas. After almost four days, they were picked up by the US Coast Guard and handed over to the Bahamian authorities. By Tuesday they were in detention in Nassau.

For more than three years, US policy on Cuban "boat-people" has been firm: they are repatriated unless they qualify for political asylum by demonstrating "well-grounded fear of persecution". The Bahamas has a similar policy.

Having failed to reach the Florida coast, Hernandez and the others were liable to be sent back. Instead, the State Department went into overdrive. Officials cited "special circumstances" - the only question was which would guarantee Hernandez's speediest entry into the US while setting fewest precedents.

A State Department spokesman, James Foley, spoke of his "close ties to the United States", the status of his brother as "a well-known sports figure" and the fact that "he has suffered already reprisals in Cuba as a result of his brother's defection". The US took "very seriously", said Mr Foley, Hernandez's "strong fear of additional and increased persecution" if he were sent back to Cuba.

Hernandez received a visit from the US ambassador in Nassau, representatives of Florida-based emigre organisations, and a leading Cuban emigre sports agent. Within 36 hours, he, his girlfriend and a second baseball player in the boat had been granted permission to enter the US.

Their five companions, however, are still in detention in Nassau. They are likely to be deported.

## Land of the Free cracks down

A ban on smoking in California bars is not the only lifestyle-cramping law that went into the statute book of American states with the New Year.

Under-18s in California will have to secure their parents' permission before having any part of their body pierced, while waiting car alarms will make drivers' cars liable to be towed away after 20 minutes, rather than 45 at present.

In New York state, drivers who kill or injure a cat will have to report the accident and face a fine of up to \$100 for not doing so. The change gives cats parity with dogs. Also in New York, the fines on owners of dogs that bark too loudly or too long have been trebled - to \$525.

— *Mary Dejevsky, Washington*

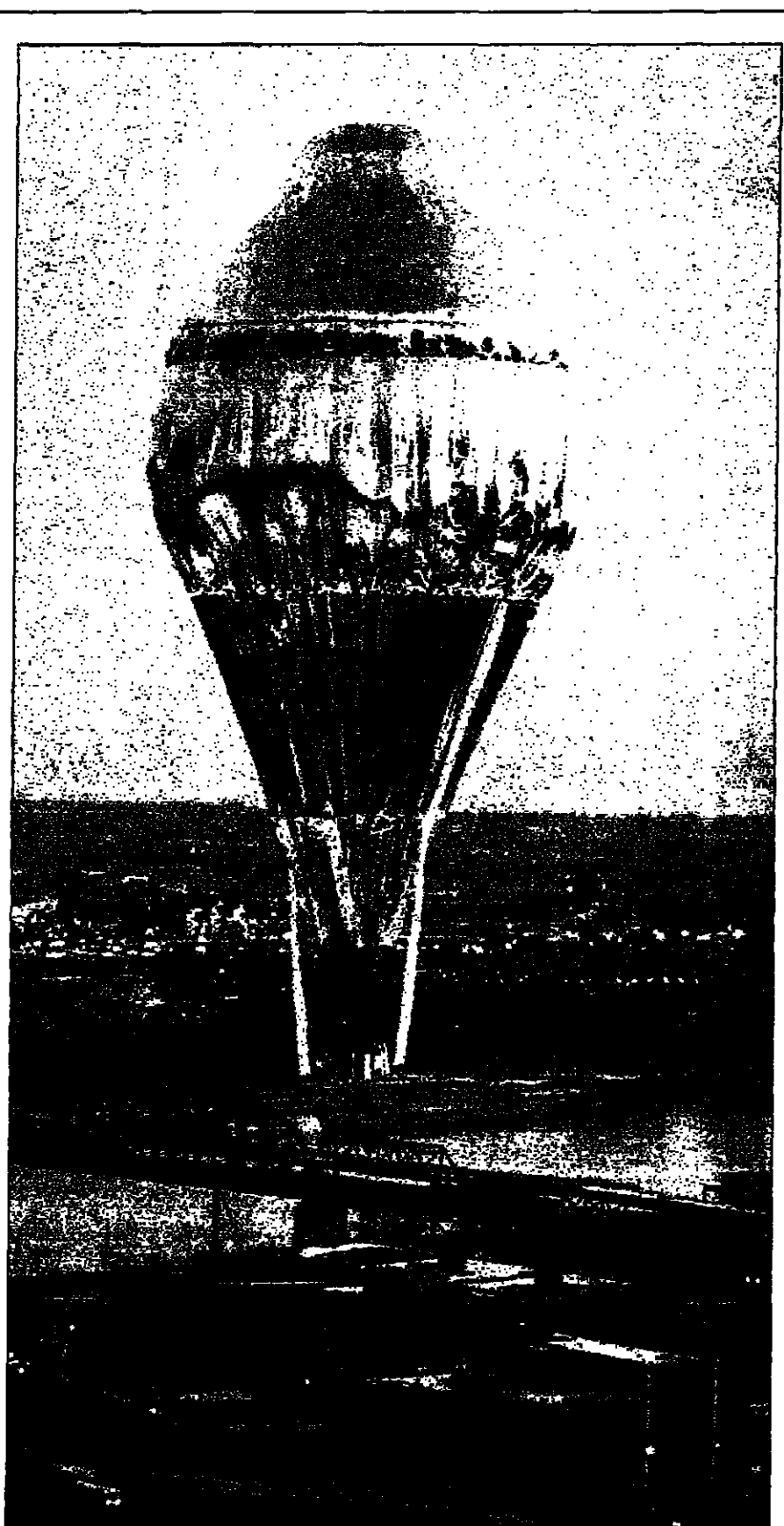
## Kenya opposition claim Moi cheated

Kenya's main opposition parties yesterday accused President Daniel arap Moi of using fraud to win the election after early results pointed to a fifth term. But the opposition party leaders said they would reject such a result.

Kenyan television reported that unofficial counts from 60 per cent of the seats showed Mr Moi had won 1,466,868 votes against 1,009,186 for his nearest rival, Mwai Kibaki of the Democratic Party.

Mr Moi needs 25 per cent of the vote in five of Kenya's eight provinces to win, failing which he will face a run-off against the second-placed candidate. The early results also suggest that Mr Moi has increased his vote since the last elections in 1992.

— *Ed O'Loughlin, Nairobi*



Into the blue: Millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett lifting off from Busch stadium in St Louis, Missouri, this week as he began his attempt to fly a hot-air balloon non-stop around the world  
Photograph: AP/St Louis Post-Dispatch

## Israeli foreign minister to quit

The Israeli foreign minister, David Levy, announced last night that he was resigning. He said the five MPs of his Geshet party would vote against Benjamin Netanyahu's government on the 1998 budget.

Mr Levy said he would resign immediately after the Geshet five voted against the budget. This left open a slim possibility that Mr Netanyahu might yield at the last minute to the foreign minister's pressure. Officials in the Prime Minister's office claimed, however, that the financial cost would be too high.

"This is a government which is on a flight to nowhere," Mr Levy said. The foreign minister's brother, Maxim Levy, Geshet's parliamentary whip, insisted they were not bluffing. If Geshet joins the opposition, it would reduce Mr Netanyahu's majority to a maximum of six in

the Knesset. But a handful of opponents of the Oslo agreement in the Prime Minister's own Likud are also threatening to withhold support. Failure to pass the budget would precipitate elections.

Geshet projects itself as the champion of the underprivileged Israelis of Afro-Asian origin. Mr Levy had demanded that the government invest in a recovery programme for the depressed areas. Mr Netanyahu turned him down.

Mr Levy is the government's most outspoken supporter of West Bank withdrawals. His departure would tilt the balance to the right and highlight the question mark against Mr Netanyahu's capacity to push through the "generous" evacuation that both the Americans and Palestinians are demanding.

— *Eric Silver, Jerusalem*

## Pol Pot 'has escaped with Chinese help'

The infamous Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot has escaped from Cambodia to avoid facing an international court for his crimes against humanity, Cambodian newspapers said yesterday.

Pol Pot was said to have escaped with assistance from China, though the Chinese embassy in Phnom Penh denied the reports and government officials dismissed them as propaganda from opposition forces.

The pro-government newspaper *Koh Santepheap* said Pol Pot had escaped from the rebels' jungle base of Anlong Veng. The newspaper said the Khmer Rouge defence chief Ta Mok had met Chinese diplomats at about the time of the escape. The opposition newspaper *Udom Kateak* said the Chinese wanted Pol Pot to avoid trial because they had backed his 1975-79 "killing fields" regime.

— *Reuters, Phnom Penh*

## Indian right looks set for poll victory

India will hold elections over four days beginning 16 February, the chief election commissioner said yesterday.

Early opinion surveys have indicated the right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party will win the most seats, though no party is expected to get a majority. The BJP was to launch its campaign later yesterday with a rally in Bombay.

No party won a majority in the last elections in May 1996, and ideological differences and competing ambitions kept the main blocs from working together. New voting had to be called three years early after the Congress Party withdrew support from the governing United Front coalition, accusing one of its members of supporting Sri Lankan guerrillas linked to the 1991 assassination of Congress leader and former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

— *AP, New Delhi*

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## Amnesty offers Italy chance to forget its years of terror



Terrorist generations: Red Brigades members Gabriella Mariani and Adriana Faranda on trial in connection with Aldo Moro's kidnapping in 1978 (they are now free after serving 12 years). Right: the discovery of Moro's body Photographs: AP

For Christmas this year, Italy's President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro decided to pardon six people involved in the Red Brigades terrorist group in the 1970s. The gesture was intended to encourage parliament to declare a general amnesty for terrorist offences. Andrew Gumbel explains why everyone has an interest in forgetting one of the darkest chapters in Italy's post-war history.

Six months ago, the radical left-wing political science professor Toni Negri made an extraordinary decision. After 14 years living comfortably in Paris as a fugitive from Italian justice, he decided to come home and face a 30-year jail sentence.

His crime, at least according to the charge sheet, was inciting his students at Padua University to terrorist violence back in the 1970s. Professor Negri has always denied the charges, and his case has provoked strong criticism from Amnesty International and others. But he chose to go to jail to become a living symbol of Italy's need to come to terms with the multiple injustices of the terrorist period. He declared he was willing to admit he had made mistakes — even if they were not criminal ones — and hoped the Italian state would be magnanimous enough to do likewise and declare an amnesty.

Six months on, Professor Negri is still in Rebibbia prison in Rome, but the debate has taken on greater urgency. A parliamentary committee has drafted a law that would trim jail sentences for terrorist offences far enough to free most of the 180-odd people still being punished for their crimes. Politicians on all sides have spoken of the need to put the dark days of the late 1970s behind them and acknowledge that the terrorists no longer pose a threat.

And now President Scalfaro has exercised his prerogative to pardon six minor *brigatisti* — none responsible for shedding blood — still caught in the judicial wringer. "It's realistic to think," said the senior left-wing

politician, Pietro Folena, "that by the year 2000 our country will have closed its accounts with the Years of Lead."

But why should Italy consider pardoning a generation of terrorists that, from 1969 to 1981, blew up banks and railway stations, killed dozens of policemen, magistrates and journalists, and carried out the audacious kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro, the leader of the Christian Democrat party? Part of the reason is a cultural reflex: the desire not to exacerbate social divisions through revenge, but rather to adhere to the Catholic tradition of forgiveness (interestingly the Italian word being used for the terrorist amnesty, *indulto*, is by origin a Church term referring to a special dispensation from the tenets of canon law).

Part of the reason is an acknowledgement that terrorists,

starting with an attack on a bank in Piazza Fontana in Milan in 1969, were right-wing in inspiration and intended to counter the rising fortunes of the Communist Party. Evidence has emerged that parts of the political elite and secret services devised a deliberate "strategy of tension" to deter the public from voting the Communists into power. But the precise chain of responsibilities has never been established, and even the identities of the bombers have never been adequately proven.

The Red Brigades and other violent leftist groups emerged as a reaction to the right-wing terrorists and to the state's crack-handed attempts to blame the early bombings on left-wing anarchists. There are suspicions that parts of the Christian Democrat party allowed Moro to be killed rather than negotiating for his release because they did not approve of his policy of rapprochement with the Communists.

The murkiness also spread into the judicial system. Professor Negri is just one celebrated case of suspected miscarriage of justice. Three left-wing activists in jail for the murder of a Milan police officer in the early 1970s are also widely believed to be innocent, victims of a judicial process that has been likened to the Spanish Inquisition.

Because of Italy's system of plea-bargaining, a number of Red Brigades murderers got off relatively lightly while others further down the pole of responsibility have languished in jail for years.

An amnesty is a convenient way of closing the lid on all of these horrors. Significantly, one of the most ardent champions of the *indulto* is the former state president, Francesco Cossiga, a man linked to myriad scandals of state involvement in subversive acts. During the Moro kidnapping he was interior minister and thus directly responsible for the decision whether or not to negotiate with his party leader's captors.

The amnesty's passage through parliament requires a two-thirds majority. It could be scuppered by political concerns: the party headed by the former prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, wants to link an amnesty on terrorism to an amnesty on the recent wave of corruption scandals in which Mr Berlusconi is deeply implicated. The one could easily cancel out the other.

In the wrangling, the concerns of the families of terrorism victims have gone virtually unheeded. Unlike France, Italy has no mechanism for providing compensation or any kind of state help to bereaved relatives. An amnesty may relieve a lot of troubled consciences, but nobody has yet had the courage to say sorry for the murky violence of the past.

## DECADE OF VIOLENCE

The 1970s are known as Italy's Years of Lead — a reference not only to the bullets that flew with alarming regularity, but also to the oppressive atmosphere that weighed down the whole country. These are some of the key events of those years:

**December 1969:** Bomb destroys the Banca Nazionale dell'Agricoltura in Piazza Fontana in Milan, killing 16 people. Although initially blamed on the left, this was the work of right-wingers intended to scare resister factory workers out of launching a Communist revolution.

**1974:** Bomb kills eight at a demonstration in Brescia; later in the year a train bombing in a tunnel near Bologna kills 12 more. Both are the work of right-wingers.

**1976:** Red Brigades commit first murder, of Genoa state prosecutor Francesco Coco (right). Nearly 100 more killings follow over the next four years.



**1978:** Red Brigades kidnap Aldo Moro, architect of the stillborn 'historic compromise' with the Communists, near his home and kill his bodyguards. After a tense 55 days, his corpse is found in the back of a car at a spot equidistant from the Rome headquarters of the Christian Democrat and the Communist parties.

**1980:** Right-wing bomb kills 85 at Bologna railway station. The same year, captured Red Brigades members begin to co-operate with the police, leading to the disbandment of the group and the end of the Years of Lead.

particularly the left-wing variety, were treated far more harshly by the judicial system than common criminals would have been for similar offences; in other words, there was an explicit political element to their punishment.

But perhaps the most compelling, if least advertised, reason to put the events of the 1970s to rest is the culture of bad faith, hatred, conspiracy and violence that enveloped the entire country during the period — leading to subversive acts committed not only by a handful of political ideologues but by magistrates, politicians and intelligence officers, too. Enough scandals have emerged from the period to implicate large chunks of the state structure in illegality and violence.

The first wave of bombings,

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	£10,000+	4.50%	3.60%		£10,000+	5.70%	4.56%	
	£5,000+	4.05%	3.24%		£5,000+	5.32%	4.25%	
	£2,000+	3.50%	2.80%		£2,000+	4.60%	3.68%	
	£1,000+	3.00%	2.40%		£500+	4.12%	3.30%	
	£500+	2.80%	2.24%					
	£1+	0.20%	0.16%	PREMIER TWELVE	£100,000+	7.10%	5.68%	
MONTHLY SAVER	£5,000+	3.65%	2.92%	Variable (Issue 1) Rate Options paying interest annually. (No longer available).	£50,000+	7.10%	5.68%	
	£2,500+	3.65%	2.92%		£25,000+	7.00%	5.60%	
	£1,000+	3.60%	2.88%		£10,000+	6.95%	5.56%	
	£500+	3.55%	2.84%		£5,000+	6.80%	5.44%	
	£1+	3.45%	2.76%	PREMIER TWELVE	£100,000+	6.88%	5.50%	
90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT	£100,000+	6.65%	5.32%	Variable (Issue 1) Rate Options paying interest monthly. (No longer available).	£50,000+	6.88%	5.50%	
Interest paid annually.	£50,000+	6.35%	5.08%		£25,000+	6.78%	5.43%	
	£25,000+	6.10%	4.88%	BONUS TESSA	£10,000+	6.74%	5.39%	
	£10,000+	5.85%	4.68%	(No longer available).	£5,000+	6.60%	5.28%	
	£5,000+	5.45%	4.36%		£3000+	5.90%		
	£2,500+	4.70%	3.76%		£500+	4.40%		
	£500+	4.20%	3.36%		£1+	1.00%		
90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT	£100,000+	6.46%	5.16%	PREMIER TESSA				
Interest paid monthly.	£50,000+	6.17%	4.94%	(FOLLOW UP) (Issues 1 & 2) (No longer available).	£9,000+	7.25%		
	£25,000+	5.94%	4.75%		£5,000+	6.95%		
	£10,000+	5.70%	4.56%		£3,000+	6.95%		
	£5,000+	5.32%	4.25%		£500+	5.15%		
	£2,500+	4.60%	3.68%	CHILDRENS' ACCOUNT	£1+	1.00%		
	£500+	4.12%	3.30%	(No longer available).	£1+	3.00%	2.40%	
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	£25,000+	7.00%	5.60%		£25,000+	3.01%	2.41%	
	£10,000+	6.95%	5.56%		£10,000+	2.72%	2.17%	
	£5,000+	6.80%	5.44%		£5,000+	2.37%	1.90%	
ONE YEAR OPTION BOND	£100,000+	6.88%	5.50%		£2,000+	2.08%	1.66%	
Variable (Issue 1) Rate Options paying interest monthly.	£50,000+	6.88%	5.50%		£500+	1.29%	1.03%	
	£25,000+	6.78%	5.43%	SELECT	£1+	0.20%	0.16%	
	£10,000+	6.74%	5.39%	(No longer available).				
	£5,000+	6.60%	5.28%		£50,000+	3.20%	2.56%	
TESSA PLUS	£3,000+	7.05%			£25,000+	3.05%	2.44%	
	£500+	5.55%			£10,000+	2.75%	2.20%	
	£1+	1.50%			£5,000+	2.40%	1.92%	
TESSA TWO					£2,000+	2.10%	1.68%	
(FOLLOW UP) (Issues 1 & 2)	£9,000+	7.25%			£500+	1.30%	1.04%	
	£5,000+	6.95%			£1+	0.20%	0.16%	
	£3,000+	6.95%						
	£500+	5.15%						
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	£25,000+	5.75%	4.60%		£25,000+	3.01%	2.41%	
	£10,000+	5.50%	4.40%		£10,000+	2.72%	2.17%	
	£5,000+	5.05%	4.04%		£5,000+	2.37%	1.90%	
	£2,000+	4.50%	3.60%		£2,000+	2.08%	1.66%	
	£1,000+	4.00%	3.20%		£500+	1.29%	1.03%	
	£500+	3.80%	3.04%		£1+	0.20%	0.16%	
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	£50,000+	5.00%	4.00%					
	£25,000+	4.75%	3.80%					
	£10,000+	4.50%	3.60%					
	£5,000+	4.05%	3.24%					
	£2,000+	3.50%	2.80%					
	£1,000+	3.00%	2.40%					
	£500+	2.80%	2.24%					
(More than 6 Withdrawals)	£100,000+	3.20%	2.56%					
	£50,000+	3.20%	2.56%					
	£25,000+	3.05%	2.44%					
	£10,000+	2.75%	2.20%					
	£5,000+	2.40%	1.92%					
	£2,000+	2.10%	1.68%					
	£1,000+	1.30%	1.04%					
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	£25,000+	6.10%	4.88%		£25,000+	4.45%	3.56%	
	£10,000+	5.85%	4.68%		£10,000+	4.15%	3.32%	
	£5,000+	5.45%	4.36%		£2,000+	3.30%	2.64%	
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	£500+	4.20%	3.36%	BALMORAL MONTHLY INCOME ACCOUNT	£100,000+	4.55%	3.64%	
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					£10,000+	4.07%	3.26%	
					£2,000+	3.25%	2.60%	

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## Irish factory helps eels slither on to the menus of Europe

**Cod and chips beware; Ireland is preparing a quiet revolution in seafood with the first guaranteed large-scale supplies of eel.**  
Alan Murdoch reports.

The eerie, wriggling silhouettes of tens of thousands of dark slithering creatures have a hypnotic effect. To their patient owners at Ireland's first eel factory, who invested countless hours catching them and creating an £800,000 hi-tech habitat, the contents of the giant fibre-glass tanks inspire a mixture of pride and nervous anticipation.

A bold gamble by the new company, Aqua Arklow in County Wicklow, means 60 to 200 tonnes a year of smoked Irish eels could soon be dished up to consumers in Europe, and possibly Japan. Aided by Ireland's enterprising state fisheries body BIM (Bord Iascaigh Mhara), they may also appeal to the taste buds of Irish and British customers.

Catching them at just 0.3 grammes, Aqua Arklow feeds them up to 150 grammes, when they are ready for eating. Under a forward-thinking plan agreed with fisheries au-

thorities, Aqua then returns to lakes and rivers a larger proportion of older, five- to 10-gramme specimens from its original catch than would normally survive in the wild.

The aim is to reverse, in Ireland at least, a 20-year decline in European eel numbers and give Irish fishermen larger wild adult catches than the varying river supplies would allow naturally. Until now, this had thwarted the possibility of a mass market for wild eel. It is not currently possible to breed them in captivity.

In the wild, the eel faces a 50 to 84 per cent mortality rate in its early months. Able to swim forwards and backwards, it can also breathe through its skin and smell food across extraordinary distances.

They spawn in the Caribbean's warm Sargasso Sea before migrating as glass eels to European estuaries. From pigmented "elvers", they grow into yellow then silver adults, then migrate down-river and south to complete the cycle.

Like most transatlantic voyagers they suffer stress. After the ordeal of grading at the plant they need salt or baking-powder baths to recover their equilibrium.

Catching the tiny glass eels is perhaps

the hardest part of the Aqua's factory process, according to managing director Declan Duggan. Eels move only under particular tidal and weather conditions. "It might be night or day and we have to work around the tides. It's laborious; you can go for two or three trips over 200 miles without catching one. It's very hit and miss," he says.

Locals are fascinated. "They are always asking 'How are the eels?' If it was trout they wouldn't be so interested. But with eels it's like snails and slugs, they're almost afraid of them," he says.

Mr Duggan, 37, used expertise he learned in industrial pipe fitting and beating to good effect. Five years in planning, the sophisticated plant features computerised oxygen and pH controls and a constant 25°C water temperature.

This is essential for nurturing eels to their full 16 inches in six to 18 months, compared with six to seven years in cooler, wild conditions. (Wild eels stop feeding in cold temperatures.)

After seven days of "purging" in clear water, they are transported live for smoking on the Continent. So far not one eel has been lost to disease.



Slippery meal: Aqua Arklow hopes its eels will appeal to European tastes

Photograph: Eamonn Farrell/PhotoC Ireland

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## Blair to issue millennium bug warning

Tony Blair will call on business to wake up to the "millennium bug" which could lead to computers crashing at the turn of the century. But Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says the Government's own house needs to be put in order.

The Prime Minister is said to be "shocked and appalled" at the ignorance of small businesses to the threat posed by the bug and is giving the problem high priority, according to senior government sources.

He has become alarmed at the potential for disaster faced by some firms. His planned "wake-up" call to industry and small businesses early in 1998 will drive home the message that they should make sure their computers are tested and altered to cope with the double zero date, well before the end of next year.

Mr Blair will put the computer problem high on the agenda for Britain's six-month presidency of the European Union, his officials said. "The Prime Minister is

determined that Britain prepares itself and leads the preparations in Europe," said the Government source.

"He is shocked and appalled at the some of the neglect of the problem. One poll showed only 55 per cent of the companies were aware of the implications," the source added.

The Prime Minister's decision to act follows several reports in *The Independent* of the dismay among some experts at the lack of preparation being made in Britain to enable computers to cope with the millennium.

The Government has also insisted that its own computers are being corrected in time to cope with the millennium. A spokesman for the Inland Revenue denied claims by the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, Malcolm Bruce, that its PAYE computers could crash this year. Mr Bruce said the costs for the Government of coping with the bug had escalated to £3bn.

The Government estimated it would cost £370m to deal with computers in central departments, but Mr Bruce said this did not include thousands of computers in other areas of the public sector, including the NHS and transport.

## Anger at return of the body-snatchers

Body-snatching is back in fashion. Only this time the snatchers are not Burke and Hare but biotechnologists seeking to exploit the growing market in genes and diagnostic tests. Jeremy Laurence, Health Editor, asks whose body is it anyway?

A series of cases in which scientists have found themselves in conflict with patients over who owns tissue removed from their bodies has highlighted a growing problem that could threaten medical research, two experts in medical law have warned.

Patients have spoken of being "violated" when their body tissue was used without their consent. In one case, John Moore, a patient in California whose tissue was transformed into a commercial cell line and patented without his knowledge or consent, complained of feeling he had been "raped".

In another case, a widow sued a Los Alamos laboratory for severe mental and emotional distress after it had removed three and half kilograms of organs from her dead husband for research.

Professors Lori Andrews of Chicago-Kent College of Law and Dorothy Nelkin of New York University say in *The Lancet* that scientists often see the body and its parts as impersonal objects to be used for research and commercial development, and with the advent of biotechnology human tissue has become a raw material.

"Body parts are extracted like a mineral, harvested like a crop, mined like a resource. Cells, embryos or tissue can be frozen, banked ... patented, bought or sold."

They compare the body-snatching of the 18th century, whose most notorious practitioners were Burke and Hare who murdered individuals to sell to Dr Knox's anatomy school in Edinburgh, with the activities of scientists today. "Pathologists routinely analyse tissue samples without obtaining consent. Researchers try to commercialise tissue without sharing profits with sources. Objectifying the body enables scientists to extract, use and patent body tissue without reference to the person involved."

Professors Andrews and Nelkin say scientists risk a backlash if they continue to ignore patient disquiet about what often appears to be the callous exploitation of human tissue by medical researchers.

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## There was nothing on my list about this ...

### RESOLUTIONS

THE TIME: 1992

THE PLACE: A LONDON HOSPITAL

The writer Dea Birkett thought she had her whole life planned out ahead of her. Then, out of the blue, she was told the truth about her baby daughter.

I am an inveterate list-maker. This is the Day List, which mixes mundane household tasks (buy hypoallergenic washing powder, get toilet fixed again) with work (hassle travel agent to send me somewhere hot to write to publisher about lack of reviews, chase up unpaid expenses). The first item on the Day List is always "plan day" (code for "writing a list"), so as soon as the list is written, I can cross out the top line. The Week List contains more substantial work commitments: write book review, finish chapter seven; return proofs.

The most important list of all was the Life List: earn loads of money; spend half the year abroad; buy big house in central London; become hugely successful writer by 30. When 3 passed, I drew a fine blue line through that figure and wrote "35"; shortly after my 35th birthday, I put "40". The Life List was my declaration of faith in myself. I was confident that, given time and a little bit of cheating, everything would be ticked off.

In truth, "have a baby" was never on the Life List. But when I reached my early thirties, other women of my age were having children, my boyfriend was certain that he wanted a child, and, once the decision was made, it happened that night. Already pregnant, I sneaked "have a baby" on to the list in retrospect and pretended it had been there all along. Never a matey person, I imagined motherhood would be the first club to let me in.

Being pregnant was a blessing to a listophile. There are all those things you aren't supposed to eat (pinned up in a list above the fridge in the kitchen); the endless appointments at antenatal clinic, breast-feeding and breathing-in-labour classes; the birth plan (just a glorified list); and the list of those things to take with you into hospital (bags of ice, towels, birthing stool, electric fan, sandwiches, book on how to give birth).

Child-rearing itself seemed to promise a wealth of new list-compiling possibilities, around which my day, week and life could be structured. Most tasks were so simple, such as buying pink-edged Pampers, that they could be easily deleted with a great flourish of satisfaction. My antenatal appointments were replaced by my daughter's weekly weighing sessions, 10-week check, three-month check. At the three-month check, she seemed a little floppy. I added "Buy Penelope Leach and Miriam Stoppard" to the Day List; they should be able to help with handy hints as to how to cure floppiness. List-writing and motherhood were meant for each other. Then, six months after my daughter was born, the Life List stopped.

There had been suspicions about my daughter's condition for some time. But then, who isn't worried about their first baby? Maybe, if I had been 19, I'd have put her in a frilly pink dress, tied her non-existent fuzz of hair in tiny ribbons, put

a bottle into her mouth and carried on as usual. Only my older mothers make such a song and dance about bringing up baby. Friends were also having concerns about their newborns - one's son wasn't putting on enough weight, another's daughter had ghastly projectile vomiting. My daughter's floppiness was just another focus for an over-anxious mother in her mid-thirties.

**'Your daughter will always be a disappointment to you,' he said. It was the cruellest thing anyone has ever told me**

But soon, there were several appointments a week with specialists which other babies were not having. At yet another one, my daughter was sitting on my lap as we discussed whether she was old enough to supplement her milk with some juice, when the consultant said, in such a throwaway manner that I only just caught the words, "Of course, your daughter has cerebral palsy." Strangely, the words I remember most are not the cold, clinical diagnosis, but the "of course". Of course?

There was no "of course" about it. Cerebral palsy wasn't on the list.

Cerebral palsy is a condition which affects a child's motor abilities. If you are born with cerebral palsy, you will always have it. The degree to which a child is affected varies from so mild it passes unnoticed, to near-total impairment. It seemed that my daughter would be somewhere in the middle. The consultant added, "She will always be a disappointment to you." It is the cruellest thing that anyone has ever said to me. It is also a lie.

But from that moment, my life diverged from the way of the lists. It was as if I had been following some roughly mapped route and, suddenly, the car swerved wildly and I began to plough through a terrain I had never intended to venture into. When a baby is diagnosed with cerebral palsy, it is unclear where in this foreign land of disability she will fall. Low expectations of children with cerebral palsy - as with all children with disabilities - inevitably encourage such children to underachieve. My daughter might do all sorts of things - and she might not. There would be no certainties. The only lists I could write were those by the day or week. When I tried to construct a Life List, it dissolved into daily tasks. I could no longer imagine what lay ahead.

We all have unwritten lists: we all make presumptions about what the future will hold. As adults, we live for an articulated future, some blueprint we keep secret from even ourselves. Life would be intolerable otherwise: we have to think that things will go on. Without realising it, I had had a clear assumption of how my child would turn out. Much has come true - she eats ice-cream like face-paint, chats endlessly, gossips with her girlfriends and says that, when she grows up, she wants to be a witch. But it never occurred to me that alongside these delights, she would never climb trees, never run a race, never walk to the shops. These items on my Life List, so deeply assumed that I had never written them down, were suddenly erased. I felt as if the skeleton on which the flesh of my life rested had been cut out of me.

Other people talked of our "tragedy". Friends came and grasped my hands, saying they were "so sorry", as they shook their heads from side to side, looking very concerned, slightly ridiculous and horribly sad. I looked back at them, and wondered who and what they were talking about. I did not feel like a tragic heroine, a nobly suffering parent of a child with problems. I felt like a mum. But I realised, then, that the burden of mothers I expected to be part of would never embrace me. I

was different. I was touched. Five years have passed since the diagnosis. I still search for that inclusion: I still long to belong. When I meet a parent of an able-bodied child, I know that, as she looks at me and my child, she is staring at her worst nightmare. She both pities and is afraid of us. She is so glad she is not me; she is so glad I am the afflicted one, because there can only be so many of us, and, thankfully, the devil's finger has hovered above my head.

The fear of us is so great that we are written out of the able-bodied world. Wherever I look, my child and I are not there. Reluctantly tackling Toys "R" Us this Christmas, I was the only mother who couldn't see anyone who looked just a little bit like her child grinning cheekily out from the ramparts of packaging. There are no pictures of my daughter in children's magazines, no stories with handicapped heroines, no Tektubbies with wobbly legs and wheelchairs. I now realise, after five years, that the reason I could not imagine our life was because I had never seen it before. However wild all the dreams on my Life List might have been, there was always a real-life example I had come across. I had never had to encounter disability; it had been hidden from me, too.

Now I search out visions of my daughter and myself. When, in Toys "R" Us, I spotted Mat-

tel's latest product - Barbie's new friend Becky, splendid in her sparkly pink wheelchair - my heart momentarily soared. But on Becky's box is a charitable slogan - "Share a Smile" - the only such slogan on any toy in the store. My child is always an object of pity. And, as if the wickedness of real life must intrude even into toyland, Becky's wheelchair does not fit through the door of Barbie's dream house.

On my daughter's Christmas list was Becky. Maybe she'd get her, maybe she wouldn't. Writing something down makes it no more real than Santa Claus. However many lists you write, it can't prevent that lone thunderbolt striking.

My daughter's disability has been liberating. I now know that nothing is meant to be, no blueprint can be tattooed on to the enraging anarchy of our lives, no Life List is written in stone. Other people remain certain: "I'm going to Barbados on holiday next year", "I'm not going to get pregnant for a few months", "I'll be promoted in the summer", "It'll be a wonderful wedding". But when I hear them say such things, I feel sorry for them. Bound by their life's blueprint, the child-like wonder of the world is lost. Don't they know there are no certainties, only hopes?

Dea Birkett is author of *Serpent in Paradise* (Picador, £16.99).



JOHN  
LYTTLE

**Dear Diary,**  
Went to Paz's New Year Eve's Party. Possibly. Dazed and confused. Have lost 48 hours and sheer body-stocking Aunt Sadie sent me for Christmas. Crawled downstairs. Front door off hinges. Mayan temple in garden toppled. Gnomes modelled on members of Hanson Awol. Nipples sore.

Neighbours have left note, dated 1 Jan, threatening to phone Swat team and Anne Atkins. (Left number with them in case of emergencies). Sick as a supermodel after dessert. Did I have a good time?

Forgot annual resolution. Will ponder once vision clears.

**Dear Diary,**  
Later. Found next door's teenage son comatose in basement. Returned him to worried and unattractive pale parents. Many heartfelt tears and promises of physical violence. Last time I babysit for anyone.

Am glad Andrew is at mother's. Footmarks on bathroom ceiling would take some explaining. Resolve to resolve as soon as police finish dusting for prints.

**Dear Diary,**  
Anne Atkins rang. Hissy fit to burst. Doesn't appreciate hysterical calls from strangers in the dead of night. Told her that's *Telegraph* readers for you. Was shocked to hear her take the Lord's name in vain. Apologised for wasting her time: "Well, your field of expertise is missing daughters, not missing sons." Repented the words the second uttered, despite rehearsing them all morning. Atkins cursed like a drill sergeant and slammed down phone. If only people knew!

Will consider resolution moment Jehovah's Witnesses wake up and leave.

**Dear Diary,**  
Found vile, foul-tasting, green, snake-like thing clogging mouth. Tongue?

Do resolution once former Tory Minister Who Cannot Be Named frees himself from leather harness in kitchen. Would help except hands still shaking. Will just have to ring his wife himself.

**Dear Diary,**  
In words of the Blessed Celine, it's all coming back to me now. Remember frightening other boys at Paz's party by acting out scene in *I Know What You Did Last Summer* where psychopath sneaks into sleeping heroine's boudoir and gives her bad haircut. Can still hear the screams. Then lurched from guest to guest defending 17-year-old son of Cabinet minister caught dealing dope. Really, how else can young put themselves through higher education today? If I were his father I'd blame the Government. Recall reassuring Paz that his new Westwood didn't make him look fat - his fat made him look fat. Never darken doorstep again, etc.

Don't know how I fetched up at Fridge. Do know that when Muscle Mary, whose slingbacks I trod on, shrieked "And who the f\*\*\* do you think you are?" I was stumped for an answer. Finally admitted to being Michael Barrymore. Hate multiple choice questions.

Will fix on resolution once tongue specialist completes examination.

**Dear Diary,**  
Lynch mob gather in street. Lurk behind net curtains as ringleader - Mrs Tunney, pensioner from number 45 who's always boasting she lives on Pedigree Chum - works mob into frenzy (something about "burn the witch") and promises of Battenberg slices after. They should use the old cow's rock cakes to break the windows while they're at it.

**Dear Diary,**  
Andrew rang. Demanded to know why house was on BBC evening news. Asked whether national or local. Andrew ballistic. Coming back this instant. Tell him, if he has a second, to stop and purchase a small slip.

Says he's going to kill me. Mob swelling. Those near end of the queue - it's a very orderly mob - have brought sleeping bags, little Union Jack flags and bomb-making equipment. Makes you proud to be British.

Resolution after I've made riotous assembly tea.

**Dear Diary,**  
Andrew arrived. Scattered mob by telling them *Fergie: Warrior Princess* was starting on telly. World-class rage followed. Was right - footmarks on bathroom ceiling did take some explaining. And why was first-floor loo blocked with Björk CDs? (Dunno. Seemed like a good idea at the time ... a good idea at any time, actually.)

Finally compelled to unhook TV and commit beloved's favourite crime against nature. Bingo. Now snuggled up, grunting in sleep and dribbling from mouth. Suddenly feel awfully Marge Simpson: he is truly the wind beneath my duvet. And just look what happens when he leaves me alone. Yawn. Check tongue. Glows in dark. Hmm.

Doh! Wait, wait. Lights on. Nearly forgot. Message/manifesto/motto for new year.

Must spice up my life.

## Action Man lives, thanks to photo-technology

It is perhaps every small boy's fantasy to be a soldier - the only dilemma being who gets to pay the hero, and who the enemy. The artist Paul Smith has got around this by using photo-technology - and becoming not just the hero and villain, but also whole platoons of infantrymen.

Smith, whose work from his "Artists Rifles" series has just been bought by that patron of modern art, Charles Saatchi, portrays himself in a variety of battle poses, shooting, stabbing and dying, some of which appear somewhat camp.

"My work is intended to

mock the fantasy notions we have about war and the soldier hero," he explains, in a text accompanying the photographs. "Part of its intention is to illustrate the divide between reality and the romanticised vision one has of battle."

Smith displays what he calls his "constructed fantasies" with reference to what created them - plays, comic books, paintings, documentary photographs and war films.

"Acting as every figure within this work, I have courted the military ideal where there are no individuals, just the unit, brothers in arms," he says.

Smith, who is 28, spent a number of years working as a photographer for the armed forces. His photographs, which he describes as "mainly hand-shakes and medal presentations", were used in two publications for the Army in Germany - *Sixth Sense* and *Forces Echo*.

Occasionally he covered big training exercises - the pictures from which gave him the inspiration for the "Army Rifles" series. These he describes as "opening up the divide between the reality and fantasy of war". Smith says that his first idea of what a soldier should be

came from his toy Action Man: and some of the paintings, which feature Action-Man-like poses - look almost humorous.

But Smith is keen to stress that he would never mock the soldiers themselves.

"I wish to extend my deepest respect to those who have died in the very real mass carnage that war, in all its forms, brings."

Jojo Moyes



**Brazil will look to Ronaldo to provide the goalscorin touch as they begin their defence of the World Cup**

## THE WO

### 1 Rallying Paris-Dakar Rally (to 17th)

- 3 **Football FA Cup** third round
- 4 **Athletics IAAF World Cross Country Challenge**, Durham
- 5 **Darts Embassy World Professional**, Frimley Green (to 11)
- 6 **Golf MacGregor Week**, San Roque, Spain (to 10)
- 7 **Hockey DTZ International tournament**, Birmingham (to 4)
- 8 **Sliding Men's Alpine World Cup** (slalom, giant slalom), Kranjska Gora, Slovenia (to 4)
- 9 **Sailing Whitbread round** the world race, start of fourth leg, Sydney-Auckland (approx. to 9)
- 10 **Sliding Women's Alpine World Cup** (slalom, giant slalom), Oberschwang, Germany (to 6)
- 11 **Football Coca-Cola Cup** fifth round
- 12 **Sliding Men's Alpine World Cup** (giant slalom), Hinterstoder, Austria
- 13 **Football Coca-Cola Cup** fifth round
- 14 **Sliding Men's Alpine World Cup** (slalom, super giant slalom), Schladming, Austria (to 10)
- 15 **Swimming World Championships**, Perth, Australia (to 18)
- 16 **Table tennis English Open** (to 11)
- 17 **Speed skating European Championships**, Helsinki (to 11)
- 18 **Hockey World Cities Indoor Championship**, Kelvin Hall, Glasgow (to 11)
- 19 **Sliding Women's Alpine World Cup** (slalom, giant slalom), Maribor, Slovenia (to 11)
- 20 **Figure Skating European Championships**, Milan (to 18)
- 21 **Cyocross British Championships**, Birmingham
- 22 **Snooker Regal** Welsh, Newport (to 25)
- 23 **Speed Skating European Short Track Championships**, Budapest (to 11)
- 24 **Table tennis European Nations Cup**, Germany
- 25 **Sliding Women's Alpine World Cup** (downhill, super giant slalom), Kitzbühel, Austria (to 18); Men's Alpine World Cup (downhill, slalom, combined), Wengen, Switzerland (to 18)
- 26 **Horse racing Victor Chandler Chase**, Ascot
- 27 **Rallying Monte Carlo** Rally (to 21)
- 28 **Tennis Australian Open**, Melbourne (to 1/2)
- 29 **Bowls World Indoor Championships**, Preston (to 1/2)
- 30 **Golf Johnnie Walker Classic**, Thailand (to 25)
- 31 **Sliding Women's Alpine World Cup** (downhill, giant slalom, superg), Cortina d'Ampezzo (to 25); Men's Alpine World Cup (downhill, slalom, combined), Kitzbühel (to 25)
- 32 **Football FA Cup** fourth round
- 33 **Athletics IAAF World Cross Challenge**, Belfast
- 34 **Rugby union Italy v Scotland**, Treviso
- 35 **Speed Skating World Sprint Championships**, Berlin (to 25)
- 36 **Boxing WBO Super-middleweight championship**, Joe Calzaghe (GB, holder) v Tarick Salnaci (US), Cardiff
- 37 **American Football Superbowl XXXII**, San Diego
- 38 **Biatathlon European Championships**, Belarus (to 1/2)
- 39 **Squash British National Championships**, Manchester (to 1/2)
- 40 **Sliding Men's Alpine World Cup** (downhill, super giant slalom), Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany (to 1/2)
- 41 **Cricket West Indies v England**, first Test, Jamaica (to 2/2)
- 42 **Sliding Women's Alpine World Cup** (downhill, combined), Åre, Sweden (to 1/2)
- 43 **Golf Helsinki Classic**, Perth, Australia (to 1/2)
- 44 **Swimming Great Britain Grand Prix event**, Swansea (to 1/2)
- 45 **Badminton English National Championships**, Haywards
- 46 **Heath (to 1/2); Scottish National Championships**, Perth (to 1/2)
- 47 **Rugby union European Cup final**, Brive (Fr) v Bath (Eng), Bordeaux
- 48 **Rugby league Silk Cut Challenge Cup** third round (to 1/2)
- 49 **Sailing Whitbread Round the World race**, start of leg five, Auckland (approx. to 24)
- 50 **Cyclocross World Championships**, Denmark (to 1/2)

- 1 Snooker Benson & Hedges Masters, Wembley (to 8)
- 2 Cyclocross World Championships, Denmark
- 2 Tennis Tokyo Women's Open (to 8); Marseille Open Men's Tournament (to 8)
- 4 Squash European Champion of Champions, Norway (to 7)
- 5 Golf South African Open (to 8)
- 5 Rallying International Swedish Rally, Karlstad (to 8)
- 6 Hockey Men's Indoor Finals, Crystal Palace
- 6 Judo Paris A Tournament (to 8)
- 7 Winter Olympics Nagano, Japan (to 22)
- 7 Rugby union Five Nations' Championship France v England, Paris; Ireland v Scotland, Dublin; International Wales v Italy
- 8 Athletics AAA Indoor Championships, Birmingham (to 8)
- 10 Snooker Scottish Open, Aberdeen (to 22)
- 11 Football England v Chile International friendly (Wembley)
- 12 Golf Alfred Dunhill South African PGA, Jo'burg (to 15)
- 3 Cricket West Indies v England, second Test, Port of Spain (to 17)
- 4 Football FA Cup fifth round
- 4 Rugby league Silk Cup Challenge Cup fourth round (to 15)
- 5 Motor racing Daytona 500, Florida
- 5 Athletics IJBA Indoor GP Birmingham
- 8 Football Coca-Cola Cup semi-final first leg
- 20 Hockey European Men's Indoor Champ A Division (St Albans), Hamburg B Division (Menzelshof), Dundee (to 22)
- Wintering GB, Grand Prix event, Leeds (to 22)
- 21 Rugby union Five Nations' Championship England v Wales, Twickenham; Scotland v France, Murrayfield
- 21 Horse racing Toté Brierley H'cap Novice, Newcastle; Colin Dudgeon War Premier Novice Hurdle, Chesham
- 22 Football Coca-Cola Cup semi-final second leg
- 23 Tennis Guardian Direct Cup, Battersea (to 1/3)
- 25 Athletics IAAF Grand Prix II Melbourne Classic Basketball Belarus v England, Euro Champ, Minsk
- 26 Snooker Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge, Derby (to 1/3)
- 26 Golf Dubai Desert Classic (to 1/3); Nissan Open, US (to 1/3)
- 26 Ice hockey Express Superleague Cup final
- 27 Cricket West Indies v England, third Test, Guyana (to 3/3)
- 28 Athletics European Indoor Championships, Valencia, Spain (to 1/3)
- 28 Hockey European Women's Indoor Championship A Division (Slough & Edinburgh), Russelsheim, Germany (to 1/3)
- 28 Rallying Safari Rally, Nairobi (to 2/3)
- 28 Swimming Great Britain Club Team Championships, Stockholm (to 28)
- 28 Rugby league Silk Cup Challenge Cup fifth round
- 28 Hockey Sultan Azlan Shah Tournament - Men's Six Nations, Kuala Lumpur (to 8/3)
- 28 Horse racing Racing Post Stakes, Kempton
- 28 Basketball England v Israel, Euro Champ, Manchester
- 28 Skiing Men's Alpine World Cup (slalom, giant slalom), Yong Pyong, South Korea (to 1/3)
- 28 Football Asian Nations' Cup final, Ouagadougou

**1** Hockey British Aerospace U-18 Women's Schools Championship, Milton Keynes  
**2** Tennis Evert Cup, California (to 14)  
**3** Football UEFA Cup quarter-finals, first leg (Atletico Madrid v Aston Villa)  
**4** Football European Cup quarter-final first leg (Monaco v Manchester United)  
**5** Boxing ABA finals, Birmingham  
**6** Football European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg (Real Betis v Chelsea)  
**7** Golf Qatar Masters, Doha; Doral-Ryder Open, Miami (to 8)  
**8** Tennis Paralympic Games Japan (to 14)  
**9** Football FA Cup sixth round  
**10** Rugby union Five Nations' Championship France v Ireland, Cardiff; Wales v Scotland, Wembley  
**11** Rowing Women's Head of the River race, London  
**12** Snooker Thailand Masters, Bangkok (to 15)  
**13** Football Women's Alpine World Cup (downhill, super-giant slalom), Morzine, France (to 8); Men's Alpine World Cup (downhill, super-giant slalom), Kvitfjell, Norway (to 8)  
**14** Ice hockey Senior National Championships, Bath (to 8)  
**15** Able-bodied tennis Swimming National Championships, Halifax (to 15)  
**16** Motor racing Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne  
**17** Tennis Newsweek Champions Cup, California (to 15)  
**18** Rowing Schools' Head of the River race, London  
**19** Tidyman All-England Championships, Birmingham (to 16)  
**20** Hockey Varsity match, Milton Keynes  
**21** Siding Women's Europa Cup (slalom, giant slalom), Davis Range, Cairngorm, Scotland  
**22** Skiing Alpine World Cup Men's and Women's finals (downhill, giant slalom, super-giant slalom, combined), Bans Montana, Switzerland (to 15)  
**23** Cricket West Indies v England, fourth Test, Barbados (to 16)  
**24** Golf Moroccan Open, Agadir (to 15); Honda Classic, Fort Lauderdale, Florida (to 15)  
**25** Harlequins World Matchplay, Liverpool (to 16)  
**26** Speed skating World Championships, Netherlands (to 15)  
**27** Rugby league Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-finals (to 15)  
**28** Horse racing Imperial Cup, Sandown  
**29** Running Fila World Cup, Sheffield (to 15)  
**30** Whirlwind Round the World race - start of sixth leg (2/4 approx)  
**31** Motorcycling Superbike World Championship round one, Indonesia  
**32** Ice skating British Precision Team Championships, Bradenton (to 17)  
**33** Figure Skating World Championships, Florida (to 29)  
**34** Football UEFA Cup quarter-final, second leg (Aston Villa v Atletico Madrid)  
**35** Horse racing Cheltenham Festival (to 19); Champion Hurdle, Newtonham  
**36** Horse racing British Open, Chesterfield (to 22)  
**37** Football European Cup quarter-final second leg (Manchester United v Monaco)  
**38** Athletics World Road Relay Championships, Brazil (to 19)  
**39** Football European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final second leg (Chelsea v Real Betis)  
**40** Golf Portuguese Open, Lisbon (to 22); Bay Hill Invitational, Orlando, Florida (to 22)  
**41** Horse racing Cheltenham Gold Cup  
**42** Cricket West Indies v England, fifth Test, Antigua (to 24)  
**43** Driving National Masters Competitors, Sheffield (to 22)  
**44** Speed Skating Short Track World Championships, Vienna (to 22)  
**45** Rugby union Five Nations' Championship Ireland v Wales, Dublin  
**46** Rowing Tideway Head of the River race, London  
**47** Athletics IAAF World Cross Country Championships, Morocco (to 22)  
**48** Horse racing Midlands Grand National, Uttoxeter  
**49** Cycling World Cup Milan-San Remo  
**50** Ice hockey National League play-off finals (to 22)  
**51** Rugby union Five Nations' Championship Scotland v England, Murrayfield  
**52** Gymnastics Men's and Women's Welsh Championships  
**53** Rhythmic Portuguese Rally, Figueira da Foz (to 25)  
**54** Rowing Women's Oxford and Cambridge boat race, Henley  
**55** Motor racing British Formula 3 Championship, Donington Park  
**56** Motorcycling Superbike World Championship round two, Phillip Island, Australia  
**57** Snooker Benson & Hedges Irish Masters (to 29)  
**58** Football International friendlies, England's opponents (to 22); Scotland v Denmark; Northern Ireland v Colombia  
**59** Squash British Open, Birmingham (to 3/4)  
**60** Horse racing Opening of the Flat Season  
**61** Golf Players Championship, Sawgrass, Florida (to 29)  
**62** Rugby union Hong Kong Sevens (to 29)  
**63** Athletics IAAF Grand Prix II All Africa Invitational, Johannesburg  
**64** Women's Gymnastics GB v Spain, Guildford  
**65** Speed skating World Single Distance Championships, Canada  
**66** Short track World Cup Championship, Italy (both to 29)  
**67** Motorcycling MCN British Superbike Championship, Brands Hatch (to 29)  
**68** Rowing Oxford v Cambridge University Boat Race  
**69** Rugby union Rugby's Bitter Cup semi-finals  
**70** Rugby league Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-finals (to 29)  
**71** Horse racing Lincoln H'cap, Doncaster; Dubai World Cup  
**72** Rhythmic Gymnastics British Championships and International, Bletchley  
**73** Ice hockey Superleague play-off final, Manchester  
**74** Judo Commonwealth Tournament, Edinburgh  
**75** Cricket West Indies v England, first one-day match, Barbados  
**76** Football Coca-Cola Cup final  
**77** Motor racing Brazilian Grand Prix, Interlagos; British Formula 3 Championship, Thruxton  
**78** Figure Skating World Championships, Minneapolis (to 5/4)  
**79** Football UEFA Cup semi-finals first leg  
**80** Snooker British Open, Plymouth (to 12/4)

## GROUP A

- |  |                     |                             |                               |                    |  |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>Brazil, Scotland, Morocco, Norway</b>           |                     |                             | <b>Netherlands, Belgium</b>   |                    |  |
| Wed 16 June  | (St Denis, 4.30)    | Brazil v Scotland           | Sat 19 June                   | (Lyon, 6.30)       |  |
| Wed 16 June  | (Stoupeville, 8.0)  | Morocco v Norway            | Sat 19 June                   | (St Omer, 8.0)     |  |
| Tue 15 June  | (Bordeaux, 4.30)    | Scotland v Norway           | Sat 20 June                   | (Bordeaux, 4.30)   |  |
| Tue 16 June  | (Nantes, 6.0)       | Brazil v Morocco            | Sat 20 June                   | (Marseille, 8.0)   |  |
| Tues 23 June                                       | (Marseille, 6.0)    | Brazil v Norway             | Thur 25 June                  | (St Etienne, 8.0)  |  |
| Tues 23 June                                       | (St Etienne, 8.0)   | Scotland v Morocco          | Thur 25 June                  | (Paris, 8.0)       |  |
| <b>GROUP B</b>                                     |                     |                             | <b>GROUP C</b>                |                    |  |
| <b>Italy, Chile, Cameroon, Austria</b>             |                     |                             | <b>Germany, United States</b> |                    |  |
| Thur 11 June                                       | (Bordeaux, 4.30)    | Italy v Chile               | Sun 14 June                   | (St Etienne, 4.0)  |  |
| Thur 11 June                                       | (Toulouse, 8.0)     | Cameroon v Austria          | Mon 15 June                   | (Lyon, 6.30)       |  |
| Wed 17 June  | (St Etienne, 4.30)  | Italy v Austria             | Sun 21 June                   | (Lans, 1.30)       |  |
| Wed 17 June  | (Montpellier, 8.0)  | Chile v Cameroon            | Sun 21 June                   | (Lyon, 6.0)        |  |
| Tues 23 June                                       | (St Denis, 3.0)     | Italy v Austria             | Thur 25 June                  | (Montpellier, 8.0) |  |
| Tues 23 June                                       | (Nantes, 6.0)       | Chile v Cameroon            | Thur 25 June                  | (Nantes, 6.0)      |  |
| <b>GROUP C</b>                                     |                     |                             | <b>GROUP D</b>                |                    |  |
| <b>France, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Denmark</b> |                     |                             | <b>Romania, Colombia</b>      |                    |  |
| Fri 12 June  | (Lans, 4.30)        | Saudi Arabia v Denmark      | Mon 15 June                   | (Montpellier, 1.2) |  |
| Fri 12 June  | (Marseille, 8.0)    | France v South Africa       | Mon 15 June                   | (Lyon, 4.30)       |  |
| Thur 18 June                                       | (Toulouse, 4.30)    | South Africa v Denmark      | Mon 22 June                   | (Bordeaux, 4.0)    |  |
| Thur 18 June                                       | (St Denis, 6.0)     | France v Saudi Arabia       | Mon 22 June                   | (Toulouse, 8.0)    |  |
| Wed 24 June  | (Lyon, 3.0)         | France v Denmark            | Fri 26 June                   | (St Denis, 8.0)    |  |
| Wed 24 June  | (Bordeaux, 3.0)     | South Africa v Saudi Arabia | Fri 26 June                   | (Lans, 6.0)        |  |
| <b>GROUP D</b>                                     |                     |                             | <b>GROUP H</b>                |                    |  |
| <b>Spain, Nigeria, Paraguay, Bulgaria</b>          |                     |                             | <b>Argentina, Japan, Ji</b>   |                    |  |
| Fri 12 June  | (Montpellier, 1.30) | Paraguay v Bulgaria         | Sun 14 June                   | (Toulouse, 1.30)   |  |
| Sat 13 June  | (Nantes, 1.30)      | Spain v Nigeria             | Sun 14 June                   | (Lans, 6.0)        |  |
| Fri 19 June  | (Paris, 4.30)       | Nigeria v Bulgaria          | Sat 20 June                   | (Nantes, 1.30)     |  |
| Fri 19 June  | (St Etienne, 8.0)   | Spain v Paraguay            | Sat 20 June                   | (Bordeaux, 4.30)   |  |
| Wed 24 June  | (Lans, 6.0)         | Spain v Bulgaria            | Fri 26 June                   | (Paris, 1.30)      |  |
| Wed 24 June  | (Toulouse, 8.0)     | Spain v Paraguay            | Fri 26 June                   | (Lyon, 3.30)       |  |

# APRIL

- 1 **Crickeet** W Indies v England, 2nd one-day match, Barbados  
Football European Cup semi-finals first leg
- 2 **Football** European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-finals first leg  
Horse racing Grand National meeting, Aintree (to 4)  
Equestrianism World Cup Jumping final, Sweden
- 3 **Tennis** Davis Cup Euro/Africa zone Group 1, second round, GB v Ukraine or Denmark, Newcastle (to 5)  
Rugby league Super League season begins  
Hockey Men's Inter league play-offs, Milton Keynes (to 5)
- 4 **Crickeet** W Indies v England, 3rd one-day match, St Vincent  
Horse racing Grand National, Aintree  
Rugby union Five Nations' Championship England v Ireland, Twickenham  
Athletics European 10,000m Challenge, Lisbon, Portugal;  
Fisu Cross Country Championships, Luton  
American football World League starts  
Rowing Sculler's Head of the River race, London Tideway  
Curling World Championships, Canada (to 12)
- 5 **Crickeet** W Indies v England, fourth one-day match, St Vincent  
Football FA Cup semi-finals  
Rugby union Five Nations' Championship Wales v France, Wembley  
Cycling World Cup Tour of Flanders  
Motor racing British Formula 3 Championship, Silverstone  
Hockey Men's cup final, Milton Keynes
- 6 **Crickeet** W Indies v England, fifth one-day match, Trinidad
- 9 **Golf** US Masters, Augusta (to 12)  
Hockey European Six Nations U16/18 Championship men and women, Milton Keynes (to 13)
- 10 **Hockey** European Men's Cup-Winners' Cup A Division (Teddington), Netherlands Women's A Division (Highstown), Belgium; European Women's Club Championship A Division (Slough); Southgate; Men's B Division (Reading, Belgium (to 13))  
Judo British Open Championships, Birmingham (to 12)
- 12 **Motor** racing Argentinian Grand Prix, Buenos Aires  
Cycling World Cup Paris-Roubaix
- 13 **Horse** racing Irish Grand National, Fairyhouse  
Motor racing Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Thruxton  
Motorcycling Superbike World Championship round three, Donington
- 14 **Football** UEFA Cup semi-finals second leg  
Horse racing Craven meeting, Newmarket (to 16)  
Basketball Euro Cup European Cup  
Judo European Senior Championships, Spain (to 17)  
Ice hockey World Championships "B" pool, Slovenia, Jesenice and Ljubljana, (to 24)
- 15 **Football** European Cup semi-finals second leg  
Equestrianism Volvo World Cup final, Helsinki (to 19)
- 16 **Football** Euro Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final second leg  
Golf Cannes Open, France (to 19)
- 17 **Crickeet** County championship starts  
Athletics IAAF World Road Relay Championship, Manaus, Brazil (to 19)  
Horse racing Scottish Grand National, Ayr  
Rugby union County Championship final (Twickenham)  
Snooker Embassy World Championship, Sheffield (to 4/5)  
Gymnastics British Women's Teams event, Bognor  
Hockey Women's inter league play-offs, Milton Keynes (to 19)
- 19 **Rugby** union Scottish Tennents Cup semi-finals  
Football Auto Windscreens Shield final, Wembley  
Rallying Spanish Rally, Lloret de Mar (to 22)  
Cycling World Cup Liège-Bastogne-Liège  
Sailing Whitbread Round the World race, start of seventh leg, Fort Lauderdale (approx. to 22)
- 20 **Tennis** Monte Carlo Open (to 26)
- 22 **Football** International friendlies England opponents  
Ireland; Scotland v Finland; U-16 European Championships, Scotland (to 8/5)
- 23 **Golf** Turespana Masters (to 26)  
Gymnastics Men's Euro Championship, Russia (to 26)  
Squash European Team Championships, Finland (to 26);  
World Doubles Championship, Canada (to 27)
- 25 **Horse** racing Whitbread Gold Cup, Sandown  
Cycling World Cup Amstel Gold
- 26 **Athletics** London Marathon  
Motor racing San Marino Grand Prix, Imola; Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Silverstone; British Formula 3 Championship, Brands Hatch  
Basketball World Championship finals
- 30 **Gymnastics** Women's European Championships, St Petersburg (to 3/5)  
Cycling Tour of Lancashire (to 4/5)  
Golf Conto di Florence Italian Open, Milan (to 3/5)

**MAY**

- 2** Horse racing 2,000 Guineas, Newmarket  
**2** Rugby League Silk Cut Challenge Cup final  
 Rugby union Women's World Cup, Amsterdam (to 16)  
 Basketball Budweiser Championship finals, Wembley (to 3)  
**3** Horse racing 1,000 Guineas, Newmarket  
**3** Athletics Rio de Janeiro GP  
 Football CSI FA Women's Cup final  
 Rallying French Rally, Ajaccio (to 6)  
 Sailing Whitbread Round the world race, start of eighth leg, Baltimore, US (approx. to 16)  
 Motorcycling Spanish Grand Prix, Jerez  
**4** Tennis Italian Women's Open (to 10)  
 Motor racing British Touring Car Championship, Donington; British Formula 3 Championship, Oulton Park  
 Rallying Rally of Corsica  
**6** Football UEFA Cup final, Paris  
**7** Golf Peugeot Spanish Open (to 10)  
 Equestrian Badminton Horse Trials (to 10)  
 Athletics International meeting, Doha  
**8** Rhythmic Gymnastics World Group Championships, Spain (to 10)  
 Basketball NBL Championship finals, Men and Women, Manchester (to 10)  
**9** Rugby union Teddy's Bitter Cup final, Twickenham; Scottish Tenants Cup final, Murrayfield  
 Athletics Osaka GP  
 Football FA Vase final  
 Modern Triathlon British Championships (to 10)  
 Fencing British Foil Championships (to 10)  
**10** Football Nationwide League semi-final play-offs first leg: FA Umbro Trophy final  
 Motor racing Spanish Grand Prix, Barcelona  
 Motorcycling Superbike World Championship, round four, Monaco  
 Hockey Women's Cup final, Milton Keynes  
**11** Tennis Italian Men's Open (to 17)  
**12** Horse racing York Dante meeting (to 14)  
**13** Football European Cup-Winners' Cup final, Stockholm; Nationwide League semi-final play-offs second leg  
 Equestrian Royal Windsor Horse Show (to 17)  
**14** Golf B&H Int. Open, Oxfordshire (to 17)  
 Judo European Championships, Oviedo, Spain (to 17)  
**15** Horse racing Lockinge Stakes, Newbury  
 Golf Brabazon Trophy, Liverpool (to 17)  
 Gymnastics World Aerobic Championships, Italy (to 17)  
**16** Football FA Cup final; Scottish FA Cup final  
 Rugby union Middlesex sevens, Twickenham  
 Cycling Giro d'Italia (to 7/6)  
 Fencing British Épée Championship (to 17)  
 Canoeing National Sprint Regatta, Nottingham (to 17)
- 17** Motor racing British Touring Car Championship, Brands Hatch; British Formula 3 Championship, Silverstone  
**18** Tennis ATP Tour Championship, Düsseldorf (to 24)  
**20** Football European Cup final, Amsterdam  
 Rallying Argentinian Rally, Cordoba (to 23)  
 Hockey Men's and Women's World Cups, Utrecht, Netherlands (to 31)  
**21** Cricket England v South Africa, first one-day match, The Oval  
 Equestrian Windsor Horse Trials (to 24)  
 Sailing Rover Series, Clyde (to 26)  
**22** Football Nationwide Third Division play-off final  
 Golf Volvo PGA Championship, Wentworth (to 25)  
 Sailing Whitbread round the world race, start of final leg, La Rochelle, France. (Ends Southampton, approx. 24/5)  
**23** Cricket England v South Africa, second one-day match, Old Trafford  
 Football International friendly England v Saudi Arabia  
 Horse racing Irish 1,000 Guineas, Curragh  
 Rugby union Swalec Cup final, Cardiff  
 Cycling Prudential Tour of Britain (to 31)  
**24** Cricket England v South Africa, third one-day match, Headingley  
 Motor racing Monaco Grand Prix; British Formula 3 Championship, Croft  
 Football Nationwide Second Division play-off final; International friendly Chile v Scotland, US  
 Horse racing Irish 2,000 Guineas, Curragh  
**25** Football Nationwide First Division play-off final  
 Tennis French Open, Paris (to 7/6)  
 Motor racing Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Oulton Park  
**26** Horse racing Brigadier Gerard Stakes, Sandown  
 Basketball Women's World Championship, Germany (to 7/6)  
**27** Cricket B&H Cup quarter-finals  
**28** Gymnastics European Championships (to 31)  
**29** Athletics IAAF Grand Prix event, Hengelo, Netherlands  
 Golf Deutsche Bank - SAP Open TPC of Europe, Hamburg (to 1/6)  
 Hockey European Men's Club Championship C Division, Glasgow; Women's B Division, Swansea (to 1/6)  
 Swimming Speedo Super Grand Prix, Sheffield (to 31); Great Britain Masters Championships, Glasgow (to 31)  
**30** Football England International friendly, opponents the Athletics Seville GP  
 Rowing Fisa World Cup, Munich, Germany (to 31)  
 Table tennis Grand Prix finals, Bath (to 31)  
**31** Athletics Eugene (US) GP

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**6 WEEKEND**  
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When all people  
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# Calendar of world sport 1998

## RLD CUP

### 1. South Korea, Mexico

South Korea v Mexico  
Netherlands v Belgium  
Belgium v Mexico  
Netherlands v South Korea  
Netherlands v Mexico  
Belgium v South Korea

### ite. Yugoslavia, Iran

Yugoslavia v Iran  
Germany v US  
Germany v Yugoslavia  
US v Iran  
Germany v Iran  
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### England, Tunisia

England v Tunisia  
Romania v Colombia  
Colombia v Tunisia  
Romania v England  
Romania v Tunisia  
Colombia v England

### amaica, Croatia

Argentina v Japan  
Japan v Croatia  
Argentina v Croatia  
Japan v Jamaica  
Argentina v Jamaica  
Japan v Croatia

## SECOND ROUND

Saturday 27 June: Game 2 (Marseille, 3.30)

Group B winner v Group A runner-up

Saturday 27 June: Game 1 (Paris, 8.0)

Group A winner v Group B runner-up

Sunday 28 June: Game 3 (Lens, 3.30)

Group C winner v Group D runner-up

Sunday 28 June: Game 4 (St Denis, 8.0)

Group D winner v Group C runner-up

Monday 29 June: Game 6 (Montpellier, 3.30)

Group F winner v Group E runner-up

Monday 29 June: Game 5 (Toulouse, 8.0)

Group E winner v Group F runner-up

Tuesday 30 June: Game 7 (Bordeaux, 3.30)

Group G winner v Group H runner-up

Tuesday 30 June: Game 8 (St Etienne, 8.0)

Group H winner v Group G runner-up

QUARTER-FINALS

3 July: Game B (St Denis, 3.30)

Game 2 winner v Game 3 winner

3 July: Game A (Nantes, 8.0)

Game 1 winner v Game 4 winner

4 July: Game C (Marseille, 3.30)

Game 5 winner v Game 8 winner

4 July: Game D (Lyon, 8.0)

Game 6 winner v Game 7 winner

SEMI-FINALS

7 July (Marseille, 8.0)

Game A winner v Game C winner

8 July (St Denis, 8.0)

Game B winner v Game D winner

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

11 July, Paris (8.0)

FINAL

12 July, St Denis (8.0)

(All times BST; local times are hour later)



England will be hoping that Alan Shearer is back to full fitness in time to lead their attack in France

## JULY

1 Rowing Henley Royal Regatta (to 5)

2 Athletics Paris GP

3 Cricket England v South Africa third Test, Old Traf-

ford (to 6)

4 Golf US Women's Open, Kohler, Wisconsin, US (to 5);

Murphy's Irish Open, Dublin (to 5)

5 Rugby union South Africa v England, Cape Town

6 Horse racing Coral-Eclipse Stakes, Sandown

7 Canoeing National Sprint Championships Regatta, Not-

tingham (to 5)

8 Angling National Championships Division 3, Milton

Keynes

9 Cycling British Road Race Championship (Dudley)

10 Athletics Linz (Austria) GP

11 Motor racing British Grand Prix, Donington Park Super-

bike World Championship, round eight, Brazil

12 Modern Pentathlon European Championships, Mill-

field (to 15)

13 Equestrianism Royal International Horse Show, Hick-

stead (to 12)

14 Golf Gullstream Loch Lomond World Invitational, (to

11)

15 Horse racing Ladbrokes Sunbury Cup, Newmarket

16 Swimming National Championships, including Com-

monwealth Games team selection/trials, Sheffield (to 12)

17 Rowing Fisa World Cup, Lucerne, Switzerland (to

12)

18 Cricket B&H Cup final, Lord's

19 Cycling Tour de France (to 2/8)

20 Motor racing British Formula 3 Championship, Silver-

stone

21 Motor racing British Grand Prix, Silverstone

22 Horse racing Irish Oaks, Curragh

23 Motorcycling Superbike World Championship round

nine, California

24 Croquet Open Championships, Hurlingham (to 19)

25 Equestrianism Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate

(to 16)

26 Athletics Nice GP

27 Golf Open Championship, Royal Birkdale (to 19)

28 Sailing Cuzco Sark Tall Ships Race, Falmouth

(to 19)

29 Rowing National championships, Strathclyde (to 19)

30 Athletics B&H Games, Oslo

31 Tennis Davis Cup World Group, second round

1 Horse racing Weatherbys Super Sprint, Newbury

2 Swimming European Long Distance Open Water

Swimming Cup, Nottingham

3 Sailing Traditional Boat Rally, Henley-on-Thames (to 19)

4 Angling National Championships Division 2, Middle

Trent

5 Athletics Sheffield GP

6 Sailing NSSA National Regatta, Datchet (to 24)

7 Modern Pentathlon Women's World Champi-

onships, Perpignan, France (to 25)

8 Football European Cup first qualifying round, first

leg: Uefa Cup first qualifying round, first leg

9 Cricket England v South Africa fourth Test, Trent

10 Golf Chrysler Open, Sweden (women) (to 26); Dutch

Open (to 26)

11 Athletics AAA Champs, Birmingham (to 26)

12 Horse racing King George VI and Queen Eliza-

beth Diamond Stakes, Ascot

13 Rallying Rally of New Zealand, Auckland (to 28)

14 Motor racing Austrian Grand Prix, Auto

Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship,

Snitterton

15 Mountain biking British Championships

16 Rallying Rally of Finland

17 Cycling British Track Championships, Manchester

(to 18)

18 Cricket NatWest Trophy quarter-finals

19 Horse racing Goodwood five-day meeting

(to 1/8)

20 Horse racing Sussex stakes, Goodwood

21 Basketball Men's World Championship, Athens,

Greece (to 9/8)

22 Football European Cup first qualifying round, second

leg: Uefa Cup first qualifying round, second leg

23 Golf Du Maurier Classic, Ontario, Canada

(to 2/8); Volvo Scandinavian Masters, Stockholm

(to 2/8)

24 Athletics World Junior Championships, Annecy, France

(to 1/8)

25 Motorcycling World Superbike, Brands Hatch (to

2/8)

## AUGUST

1 Sailing Cowes Week (to 8)

2 Archery World Field Championships, Austria (to 10)

3 Angling Nat Women's Champs, Trent & Mersey Canal

Golf Curtis Cup, Minnesota (to 2)

4 Motor racing German GP Hockenheim; Auto Trad-

er RAC British Touring Car Champs, Thruxton

5 Motorcycling Superbike World Championship round

ten, Brands Hatch

6 Bowls England National Championships for Women,

Royal Leamington Spa (to 15)

7 Rowing Junior World Championships, Ostersiehm,

Austria (to 9)

8 Equestrian Dublin Horse Show (to 9)

9 Athletics Stockholm GP

10 Cricket England v S Africa 5th Test, Headingley (to 10)

11 Golf McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe,

Glensages (to 9); Czech Open (to 9)

12 Speedway British Individual World Track Racing

Championship

13 Football Nationwide league season starts

14 Cycling World Cup San Sebastian Classic

15 Athletics Monte Carlo GP

16 Football Charity Shield, Wembley

17 Hockey European Women's U21 Nations Cup A

Division, Belfast (to 16)

18 Squash World Masters Games, Portland, US (to 22)

19 Equestrianism Aachen Horse Show, Germany

(to 16)

20 Football Uefa Cup second qualifying round, first leg

21 Cricket NatWest Trophy first semi-final

22 Football European Cup 2nd qual round, first leg

23 Athletics Zurich GP

24 Equestrianism Hickstead Derby (to 16)

25 Golf US PGA Championship, Seattle, Washington,

(to 16); Westabix Women's British Open, Royal

Lytham & St Annes (to 16)

26 Football European Cup-Winners' Cup qual round, first

leg

27 Cricket Triangular Tournament South Africa v Sri

Lanka, Trent Bridge

28 Athletics Cologne GP

29 Football Premier League season starts

30 Equestrianism British Horse Trials Champi-

onships, Gascombe Park (to 16)

31 Cricket Triangular Tournament England v Sri Lanka,

Lord's

Motor racing Hungarian Grand Prix, Budapest; Auto

Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, Knockhill

32 Bowls England National Championships for Men, Royal

Leamington Spa (to 29)

33 Cycling World Cup International Classic, Leeds

34 Cricket Triangular Tournament England v South

Africa, Edgbaston

35 Athletics European Championships, Budapest, (to 23)

36 Horse racing Juddmonte International Stakes, York

37 Motorcycling Ulster GP (to 22)

38 Horse racing Tote Ebor, York

39 Cricket Triangular Tournament final, Lord's

40 Equestrianism British Show Jumping, Hick-

stead (to 23)

41 Golf Compaq Open, Sweden (women) (to 23); Euro-

pean Open, Dublin (to 23)

42 Rallying Neste Rally, Finland (to 23)

43 Sailing Largs Regatta Week, Scotland

44 Angling National Championships Division 4,

Keasby

45 Cycling British circuit race championships, Bury

46 St Edmunds

47 Powerboat racing Poole-Needles Trophy

48 Motor racing British Formula 3 Championship,

Pembrey

49 Football Uefa Cup second qualifying round, sec-

ond leg

50 Athletics Lausanne GP

51 Cycling World Track Championships, France

52 Football European Cup second qualifying round, second

leg

53 Cricket England v Sri Lanka one-off Test, The

Oval (to 31)

54 Football European Cup-Winners' Cup qualifying round,

second leg

55 Golf BMW International Open, Munich (to 30)

56 Sailing International Festival of the Sea,

Porsmuth Harbour (to 31)

57 Athletics Brussels GP

58 Motor racing Belgian Grand Prix, Spa Francon-

champs (tobacco sponsorship allowing); British

Formula 3 Championship, Donington Park

59 Motorcycling Superbike World Championship, round

11, Austria

60 Cycling British Women's Road Race Championship,

Corby

61 Motocross British Sidecar World Championship

62 Powerboat racing Cowes Classic

63 Tennis US Open, New York (to 13/9)

64 Rowing World Championships, Cologne (to 6/9)

65 Motor racing Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car

Championship, Brands Hatch

## SEPTEMBER

2 Athletics Berlin GP

3 Canoeing Flatwater World Championships, Hungary (to 6)

4 Equestrianism Burghley Horse Trials (to 6)

5 Golf Canon European Masters, Switzerland (to 6)

6 Cricket NatWest Trophy final, Lord's

7 Athletics IAAF Grand Prix final, Moscow

8 Rowing World Championships, Cologne, Germany (to 13)

9 Cycling Tour of Spain (to 27)

10 Triathlon Long-distance World Championships, Sado Island,

Japan; World Championships, Switzerland (both to 6)

11 Motorcycling Superbike World Championship round 12,

Netherlands

12 Golf Home Internationals, Royal Porthcawl (to 11)

13 Equestrianism Blenheim Horse Trials (to 13)

14 Golf British Masters (venue tba) (to 13)

15 Commonwealth Games, Malaysia (to 21)

16 Athletics IAAF World Cup, Johannesburg (to 13)

17 Canoeing Slalom World Cup finals, Spain (to 13)

18 Horse racing St Leger, Doncaster

19 Angling National Championships Division 1, Thames

20 Motor racing Italian GP Monza; Brit F3 Champ, Thruxton;

Auto Trader RAC Brit Touring Car Champ, Oulton Park

21 Mountain biking World Championships, Canada (to 20)

22 Judo Heart of England Championships

23 Hurling All-Ireland final

24 Tennis Samsung Open, Bournemouth (to 20)

25 Football Uefa Cup first round, first leg

16 Football European Champions' League opening matches





## Looking at the horizon to see what lies beyond



Don't look now: Softley in Venice, ideal for passionate trysts

The director of 'The Wings of the Dove' artfully strips this period film - and its inhabitants - of convention. Nick Hasted meets Iain Softley, the man who likes to work on the edge.

When Iain Softley travels through time, he doesn't want you to notice. In his first film *Backbeat* (1994), he stripped back three decades of Beatles mythology to show their early years as a Hamburg pub band, pulled you in to their primal energy. In his second, *Hackers* (1995), he tried to predict the future, the music and manners of the digital underground 18 months ahead, when the film he was making would open. Soundtracked by the likes of *The Prodigy* and *Leftfield*, swimming in Internet images, it was too prescient, and crashed. Now he's in 1910, with *The Wings of the Dove*, and Helena Bonham Carter. Most directors would be crushed by period trappings. Softley has ripped through them. In its story about a doomed love triangle, of a helpless passion between young people abroad, he saw a story he wanted to tell young people today.

"These films usually have a rather fetishistic, collector's view of the past," Softley observes, doubtless with Merchant-Ivory in mind. "They're usually limited to an older, more genteel audience. *Wings of the Dove* was written by Henry James, a classical author. But the story itself is about young people, it's about people who have sexual desires, frustrations, and are hungry for each other, are hungry for opportunity and life. There's something very

**'One of the things that made this period alien to me was the sense that these people were caged in formality'**

vibrant about the story. And so the fact that it could be executed in a way that turns off people the same age as the people in it seems perverse."

The casting of Bonham Carter is almost a metaphor for Softley's intentions, her corseted image unbent, literally, in her first nude scene, and in a performance of confused, aggressive desire that already has her tipped for an Oscar. "One of the things that made this period alien to me was the sense that these people were caged, in corsets or etiquette, hats or formal greetings," Softley admits. "But you can sense in the novel that, underneath the veneer of the manners of the age, the same pulses were beating. We've chosen moments which are similar to our time - a girl coming to her boyfriend's apartment unchaperoned, and lying on the bed, or hidden in a lift in the Underground, where characters can grab each other physically."

Softley, a 39-year-old who looks younger, and whose pre-*Backbeat* background was in pop videos, is no Merchant-Ivory manqué. The thing that links his films isn't the fact of their travels through time, but the points at which they align. In *Backbeat*, it was Astrid Kirchberg, the free-thinking female photographer loved by "Fifth Beatle" Stuart Sutcliffe, who engaged him. In *The Wings of the Dove*, too, Bonham Carter's sexuality is at the cusp of what's possible, just ahead of society. In *Hackers*, most daringly, Softley tried to document times just before they happened. In each film he's been drawn to places on the edge. Hamburg or Venice or cyberspace, places of pos-

sibility. It's a tendency he's aware of, a clue to who he is.

"I think people are more alive and interesting if they are at the vanguard of their time, and fight against conventions," he says. "There are moments when there is a sense of things being possible. These ebb and flow, but it's the point when they come to a head that I always want to show. There are always people who are suppressing desire and aspiration. There are always pressures for people to act in a particular way. I'm most interested in characters who question and discover the world for themselves. I think it's an admirable, invigorating human quality."

In *Hackers*, Softley absorbed himself in characters with a sort of second sight, teenagers who could see under the skin of 1990s New York, to the playground of its phone wires. In *Backbeat* and *The Wings of the Dove*, it's the sensual place behind the public veneer that obsesses him. Does he think the official view of culture in any period is necessarily dull, a sort of shell - that there's always an exciting essence underneath? "I think there is in people's heads," he says. "There are times in everybody's life when they've been to a party or a club or a gig, and it's just been magic for a moment, and that's the reason why people listen to music, why it's so pervasive." Is that moment in his films? "I hope so. Because, when it hits me, there's nothing like it."

The sense of swimming against the tide in Softley's characters is close to his heart. When he first tried to break into the film world in the 1980s, his face didn't fit. A product of the West London suburbs, his politely-spoken, middle-class persona wasn't made for times when film-makers were obliged to be, he remembers, "socially or regionally extreme". Wanting to be a film-maker at all was a blow against his background. He remembers a childhood when the excitement of Beatles records and the romance of hitch-hiking to festivals, and of London itself, took hold. But he still felt trapped on a path that would take him straight from school to Cambridge. So he broke away, for a year, and went to France. He didn't phone his parents once. He saw it as an experiment, an attempt to survive on his wits. He picked grapes, taught, painted, lived in the Midi, then Paris. "It was interesting to be somewhere where I didn't have any relationship to anybody," he remembers, "and where I didn't know what was going to happen next. It was an attempt to break free. It was an adventure."

The characters in all his films go to places where they're on their own, where they can define themselves. Does he think the step he took by going to France still fuels his work? "I know it does. When I wrote *Backbeat*, I was interested in the sense of arriving in Hamburg, and how no assumptions are made about you, there's no history. I actually went back to Paris to write it. There is something about those journeys, when you have to break out. Something happened to John Lennon and Stuart Sutcliffe when they left the back streets of Liverpool. They wouldn't have become The Beatles if they'd stayed. You define who you are more clearly by going away."

"I remember when I was a child, when I saw the view from the top of a hill, there was always something that fascinated me about it. I always wanted to go to what was over the horizon. It's almost nomadic, that search for something, until you realise that perhaps it's never there. I think that time in your life, when you're travelling and working out what you're going to do with yourself, is a time of great pain, but a time that you look back on as gold as well. There's something tragic about the way we change. The person I was 10 years ago is no longer there. That's in all the stories I'm telling, too."

## THE BIG PICTURE



RYAN GILBEY

There should be another term by which we might describe film adaptations of novels that drastically reinterpret the source text. With a picture like *The Wings of the Dove*, the credit "based on the novel by Henry James" just isn't appropriate - it suggests an almost logical progression, as though the ideas and themes contained within the novel were being taken up by the screenwriter in a kind of literary relay race, which patently isn't the case. "Inhabited by the novel by Henry James" would be nearer the mark. You couldn't argue that *The Wings of the Dove* was faithful to its source in any conventional sense, though it displays another sort of loyalty - it feels like a dream about James's novel, rather than an adaptation of it, which is perhaps the only sensible way for a film-maker to approach this most famously interior of writers.

The director Iain Softley (see interview, left) specialises in films about little surrogate families - he made *Backbeat*, which depicted the early days of the Beatles, and *Hackers*, a light comedy about a renegade band of computer nerds. It should be a credit to those earlier pictures, rather than a slur on *The Wings of the Dove*, to say that Softley treats James's trio of tortured souls with the same breezy generosity that he dished out to Lennon and Co. or the cyber-boffs. He has a loose, discreetly daring style that won't upset those viewers who have come to marvel at the posh frocks, but which contravenes the polite objectivity of the traditional costume drama all the same.

Sometimes he can jolt you out of your seat with a single well-timed effect - a soccer ball falls toward the camera, which then switches position to watch it complete its journey to earth; in another scene, two women leap through pornographic books, and as Softley zooms in on the crude illustrations, their cheeky snickers grow obscenely ram-bunctious until you realise that it's actually the premature laughter of the party guests in the next scene that you can hear. The use of sound is also subtly unnerving during a Venetian carnival scene, where the camera prowls across the water, surveying a traffic jam of gondolas in which figures in death masks huddle in the darkness, while the soundtrack comes alive with an urgent percussive rhythm that sounds like a bag of bones being rattled. You can feel Softley's delight in unnerving his audience, though he doesn't always try for a sinister effect - early on, there's a lovely comic edit which is very nearly a Go-dardian jump-cut, where Kate Croy (Helena Bonham Carter) is standing in her lover's doorway one moment, and is sprawled across his bed the next. "Gagging for it" might not be a phrase that cropped up in James's novel, but it's practically flashing in neon above every character in the film.

The picture shifts the action of the novel forward by eight years to 1910, which gives Softley the chance to pull off two key scenes whose visual potential rests on locations and props specific to the era. The film opens in a seedy London Underground carriage, where a cluster of murky brown suits and bowlers is interrupted by the blue plumage on Kate's hat. It may be that this bold effect is only a whisker away from having Kate trot in wearing a platinum wig and a badge proclaiming "Femmes fatales do it in stilettos", but the brassiness feels thrillingly rude and devilish.

If Kate's entrance doubles as a statement of intent from Softley, then what follows feels as if he and his screenwriter, Hossein Amini, were scribbling graffiti in the margins of the novel. Kate tempts her lover, the journalist Merton Densher (Linus Roache), into an elevator, where their clinch immediately punctures that taut sexual tension that is characteristic of James. As you watch Kate and Merton writhing behind the lift's iron shutters, it becomes clear that Softley and Amini are not prepared to be coy about the extent to which these characters are trapped by passion. The film is full of images of imprisonment, self-imposed or otherwise. There are repeated shots of Merton being denied access to a woman who remains unconcerned



## A large blue feather to tickle our sensibilities

in her chamber - at the beginning of the picture, he is turned away from Kate's door on the orders of her aunt, who wishes her to wed a more respectable suitor, as Kate watches from her window; later, he receives the same treatment when he arrives to visit Milly (Alison Elliott), the dying American heiress with whom he has travelled to Venice as an unwitting pawn in Kate's get-rich-quick scheme. One of the final shots is of Kate curled naked on Merton's bed, an image which might suggest rebirth if it weren't filmed through the bars of the bedstead, transforming Kate's sanctuary into her prison.

There has been a considerable attempt made to blunt the abrasive edges of Kate's personality, though it is to the credit of Helena Bonham Carter that this is not entirely convincing. The screenplay often seems to be preoccupied with fulfilling PR duties on Kate's behalf, but Bonham Carter secures your attention, and even affection, without necessarily being likeable.

She is lit like a skeleton, the severe angles of her cheekbones carving through the stark white light that falls on her face. Even before Kate explic-

ly reveals her plan to unite Merton and Milly, so that she and Merton may benefit from Milly's will, her most apparently charitable act has an unsavoury lewdness about it. Having learnt the art of matchmaking from observing the military manoeuvres of her aunt, Kate deposits Merton and Milly in front of Gustav Klimt's *Danaë*, as though the painting itself might act as an aesthetic aphrodisiac. The scene has only been made possible by the screenplay's shift in time - Klimt did not complete the painting until 1908 - but it works against the film's idea of Kate as essentially sympathetic, and actually brings the character closer in line with James's conception of her. The choice of this painting is significant on an immediate level because of the striking resemblance that the flame-haired actress Alison Elliott bears to Danaë - it is as though Kate were inviting Merton to imagine Milly stripped and lost in desire like Danaë, even as the timid Milly herself looks on oblivious, a pathetic gooseberry in her own seduction.

*The Wings of the Dove* (cert 15) is on general release from today.

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## The killers we indulge, and those we don't



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It's the time of year when the baggage of memory gets ransacked. A lot must be left behind, and so, for the sake of health, it should be. Recollection of yesterday's quarrels fades. New paradigms establish themselves. Labour becomes, in Harold Wilson's phrase, the natural party of government by dint of being there and looking comfortable with it (though the latest cabinet papers remind us yet again how unnatural the exercise of power remained for Wilson himself). Yesterday's political villains start to look benign. The lean and hungry Portillos put on weight, metaphorically speaking. One day, even, people will play back their tape of him on election night and sympathise rather than cheer.

Selective amnesia is good mental hygiene, but how to decide what to junk? At what point do we not only forget, but in forgetting start to forgive? The latter half of the 20th century has seen many examples of a curious transformation. Yesterday's freedom fighter, today's statesman.

This process already applies to Northern Ireland. Just before Christmas one of the men convicted for planting the Brighton bomb – which, let's not forget, nearly murdered most of the Cabinet (and crippled Lord Tebbit's wife) – was allowed out of prison on leave. Yet the tabloids' attempt to whip up a storm came to nothing. Most people evidently feel the passage of time has washed away the horror of it. The public's amnesia is, however, highly selective. If some extra-historical "objective" scale of personal culpability could be constructed, Myra Hindley might look no more guilty than other murderers subsequently released well before their dotage. But her crime elicited a special response: it was classified as evil. IRA bombers who conspired to kill and succeeded in killing many more than Hindley go free: to kill for a cause, however questionable, appears to stimulate forgiveness, or at the very least, acceptance.

In Italy, we report today, moves are

afloat to grant indulgence to many of those jailed as a result of the wave of terrorism during the 1970s and early 1980s. Then, in pursuit of the destabilisation of Christian Democrat hegemony, Italian politicians were assassinated (the discovery of Aldo Moro's body in a car boot is still a sharp visual image); public order was assaulted, most memorably by the bomb at Bologna railway station. These crimes – carried out by the extreme right as well as the left – were political. At the time and since, many Italians have believed the state was complicit, that secret service units collaborated in terror. That seems to have generated a public wish for reconciliation. Romano Prodi's centre-left coalition government, the first Italian government in which the participation of Communists has been allowed, even if they now call themselves the Democratic Party of the Left, desperately wants to move away from the robber state which the Christian Democrats and the Socialists presided over.

Amnesty in Italy thus becomes a way of affirming modernisation. But how just does that grand sentiment appear to a relative of one of the Bologna victims? Would an Italian government ever think forgiving of the mafiosi that the Italian courts have managed to convict, when their colleagues continue to subvert law and good order across wide swaths of Sicily and Calabria and, still, taint the state itself?

A parallel process has been under way in Germany. There the courts, press and opinion have grappled confusedly with reconciliation in the aftermath of reunification. At the same time a programme of rehabilitation for the political terrorists of the late 1960s and 1970s of the Red Army Faction and the Baader-Meinhof stamp is under way. Ulrike Meinhof may be dead, but her sisterly conspirators emerge from jail, never quite managing to meet the eyes of the relatives of the guards, business people and others they killed. Germany is willing to forget this part of the past, even

though Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democrats' heir apparent, is confined to a wheelchair as a result of terrorist assault.

But how offensive would it be if Germans sought also to forget another part of their past, the one that ended in 1945? Public opinion in Britain, and in the United States, vehemently answers that they must never forget the Holocaust. The trial of Maurice Papon in Bordeaux showed last year that for many in France there is a class of historical crimes for which no statute of limitations can exist, which can never be washed white in the milk of amnesia. But then there are genocides and genocides. Those responsible for mass murder among the trees of equatorial Africa are not disbarred from appearing as national leaders invited to shake the hands of IMF officials and British ambassadors.

Not only do the waters of Lethe run deep, they run also in strange and various channels.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

## LETTERS

### Blair and Lib Dems

Sir: "What reasons," asks Donald MacIntyre, "would now justify the [Liberal Democrats'] stubborn refusal of [cabinet] office?" ("Why Blair will soon invite Ashdown into the Cabinet", 30 December). Let me give two.

First, the history of coalition governments under a first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system shows that, at the subsequent election, the perceived electoral choice is for the government (vote for the larger party) or against it (vote for the opposition). The smaller coalition partner suffers heavily from a loss of its distinct identity. So a coalition could only be based, so far as the Liberal Democrats are concerned, on a cast-iron commitment to a reformed electoral system being in place before the next general election.

Second, Mr MacIntyre answers his own question with his next words: "Blair is now impatient to gather together the collective anti-Tory forces while he is ahead". The worst way forward for British politics would be the combination of a single party containing "all the sensible people" on the one hand and the continuation of a FPTP electoral system on the other, as, by definition, sooner or later some non-sensible party would win.

The better way is to embrace the pluralism inherent in a reformed electoral system, and recognise that there is at present, within British politics, a spectrum of five parties (six in Scotland and Wales), with the Conservatives fundamentally split between the English Nationalists on the one hand and a Christian Democrat-type strand on the other, and the Labour Party divided between "New Labour" and the "Tyrannosaur Tendency". "Gathering together the anti-Tory forces" under a FPTP electoral system is precisely the opposite of that pluralism.

PHILIP GOLDENBERG  
Woking, Surrey

Sir: Derek Cole's claim (letter, 31 December) that Keynes and Beveridge would have opposed the Government's welfare reforms is longer on speculation than on evidence.

Keynes's central insight was that economies were cyclically unstable. He believed the state should try to stabilise economic activity by means of fiscal

policy – with the implication that public revenues and expenditure should balance over the course of the business cycle. In the sixth year of recovery, the Government is, if anything, not being tough enough on public spending to meet the criteria of Keynesian stabilisation policy.

The axiom of the Beveridge Report was that of social insurance, not redistribution: benefits would be funded by contributions and supplemented by a welfare "safety net" for those whose incomes fell below a certain level. There was no plan to establish a structural budget deficit generated by expenditure on an expanding system of welfare entitlements.

The principle of welfare reform is wholly in line with liberal thinking, and is supported by independent-minded figures of both main parties, such as Frank Field and Chris Patten, and of none, such as George Widdowson and Martin Bell. It is the curious and essentially

reactionary alliance of the Liberal Democrats and the Labour rebels that has abandoned Keynes and Beveridge.  
OLIVER KAMM  
Bath

Sir: Donald MacIntyre remarks that, like Tony Blair, Lloyd George was "fundamentally unsympathetic to the wastefulness of two parties competing for the same territory in the centre and centre left".

From the Liberal point of view – and over the entire 20th century, Labour's too – it was Lloyd George's arrogance that led to a century of Conservative Party domination. When the trade unionists approached Lloyd George to ask him to prosecute their case in Parliament, he sent them off with no firm commitment. They promptly decided to back Labour. Within a matter of years the Liberal Party was virtually extinguished.

LESLEY ABDELA  
London W1

### IMF and debt policy

Sir: In her determination to castigate the rich countries for their "immoral" debt policies (Comment, 31 December), Diane Coyle seems to have forgotten that, during the 1980s, more than a half of the Third World's debts owed to the commercial banks were written off as losses.

Because of concerns that this process could in turn undermine the international financial system, much of the energy of the IMF at that time was devoted to arranging rescue packages for the most heavily indebted developing countries.

Since South Korea currently appears to be experiencing a liquidity problem rather than a fundamental imbalance in its external accounts, the IMF is correct in seeking to prevent a financial collapse that could have a domino effect on other Asian countries.  
NIGEL WILKINS  
London SW7

Sir: What confronts us in South Korea could be seen as two failed imports from the West, namely Communism and capitalism. The first is almost history and there's a lot to be said for dismantling the second.

The capitalist system has trapped us all in a vicious circle in which insatiability of demand has become an economic imperative, the alternative being collapse of production and loss of jobs. Hence the rumour is that the Koreans may flood the world with cheap exports to deal with their "over-capacity". Post-Kyoto, perhaps they can make a virtue out of necessity by offering us a glut of cut-price, low-energy light bulbs.  
D W EVANS  
Leeds

### Equal opportunities

Sir: I write to clarify the Equal Opportunities Commission's position on possible priority for women in the selection of prospective parliamentary candidates.

KAMLESH BAHL  
Chairwoman  
Equal Opportunities  
Commission  
Manchester

The EOC has developed proposals for amendments to the sex equality laws which have been in place for 22 years. In the course of our consultation we will also be seeking views on the use of positive discrimination in employment and in the selection of prospective parliamentary candidates.

NICOLAS WALTER  
Rationalist Press Association  
London N1

### Secular knowledge

Sir: Paul Valley may know a lot about religion, but he doesn't know much about irreligion, if his two Christmas articles (20 December) are anything to go by.

Those who have called themselves secularists since the term was adopted in 1851 have not advocated an "emphasis upon individual self-interest" or the "privatisation of morality", let alone "nurtured" "nationalism". And it is nonsense to say that we are "drawing on the moral capital of centuries of a Judaeo-Christian tradition in which many of our secular truths find their origin", or that "secular liberalism" has no values.

If there is to be "a constructive debate with secular humanism", as Paul Valley hopes, there must first be proper knowledge of it.  
NICOLAS WALTER  
Rationalist Press Association  
London N1

### Cannabis arrests

Sir: The arrests of a Cabinet Minister's son, a journalist from the *The Mirror* and another man, for small cannabis offences illustrate the ineffectiveness and the injustice of the law that bans the plant.

The lad did what many other UK people do each day – pass a small amount of cannabis to someone who wants it. The annoying thing is that the cost, both economic and to police time, will all come out of the public pocket. To what end? Punishing someone for a crime without a victim. A fine example of British justice.  
TINA SMITH  
Norwich, Norfolk

Sir: While it is hardly uncommon for political pressure to be applied to the police and the Crown Prosecution Service, it is increasingly uncommon for police to respond to possession of a small amount of cannabis (on a first offence) with any more than a caution. For Dawn Alford to be arrested and bailed until February while the CPS come to a decision on the case (report, 30 December) illustrates the extent to which the prosecution service is politicised.  
DAVID MANNION  
Colne, Lancashire

### Emotional Major

Sir: You quote John Major as asserting that "politicians should never bare their emotions in public" ("Major likens Blair to Uriah Heep", 19 December).

Presumably, in Mr Major's book, irritation and anger at Prime Minister's Question Time do not count as emotions; or maybe he adopted this view when he ceased to be Prime Minister.  
LOUIS CAZEAU  
Edgware, Middlesex

### Suffolk home truth

Sir: As an East Anglian, I am never sure which side of the line we stand in any north/south divide (letters, 27 and 31 December).

May an uninvolved bystander merely mention the old saying "you can always tell a Yorkshireman, but you can't often tell him very much". Sadly, this frequently appears to be true.  
GEOFFREY ELLIS  
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

## And now, a garlic for America, and a modest proposal for colonial contagion



MILES KINGSTON

Today we bring you the second and final part of our round-up of the events of the coming year. Yesterday we brought you our forecast for January to June, so today, with uncanny precision, we carry on with...

JULY '98. World Cup in full swing in France. Scotland knocked out by losing 6-5 to Jamaica, after leading 5-0 with 10 minutes to go. Scottish manager Craig Brown says: "It's the same old story. We have only ourselves to blame. We had it for the taking. Then we threw it away. I am sick to my boots. I think I am going to commit suicide. At least then I won't be confused with Craig Brown the restaurant writer." Boxer

George Foreman announces another comeback. Tony Blair goes on holiday in Tuscan villa belonging to Spice Girls. First Test drawn.

AUGUST '98. American scientists announce that they have developed a genetically altered garlic plant which will therefore appeal to the American palate. Production of Disney animated version of *The Bible* runs into trouble with ethnic minorities, because there are no black or Asian disciples, and because Jesus does not look Jewish enough. East Anglian house of restaurant writer Craig Brown stormed by angry Scottish football fans, bitter about

ignominious Scots exit from World Cup. When informed of error, Scots fans apologise and say: "We got it wrong. It's the same old story. Sorry about that." John Major announces his comeback.

SEPTEMBER '98. American scientists announce they have developed a genetically altered tomato which will automatically fall apart in slices when picked, or even into fancy shapes. Tony Blair goes on holiday in Millennium Dome. American promoter Don King says that if the money is right, he will stage a spectacular George Foreman v John Major comeback special. Many East German athletes are stripped retrospectively of

their Olympic medals after massive steroid abuse in the 1970s and 1980s is proved. Some British athletes who trailed in fourth and fifth get gold and silver. David Coleman breaks down in tears of joy.

OCTOBER '98. A new, genetically improved strain of bird flu reappears in Hong Kong. It is not being passed on by poultry as no poultry are left alive in Hong Kong. Therefore it is being passed on by humans. Therefore all humans in Hong Kong should be slaughtered, say world chicken lobby. No decision taken. "If our policies are right, I see no reason why we should not defeat Mr Foreman's outmoded vision," says John Major. "I'll murder him," says Foreman. Ffion Hague gives birth to twins, Fred and Frieda. More controversy over Disney's Bible film – Pope criticises Disney decision to omit Crucifixion and to have God played by Robin Williams as a Jewish father. ("You want to be a what? A saviour of the world? My son, the saviour? What kind of career is that for a bright boy?" etc etc).

NOVEMBER '98. The *Titanic* is finally raised, amid huge publicity. Unfortunately, as it is being towed back to New York at night, it is struck by an unseen iceberg and sinks. Tony Blair invites Sir Elton John to join the Cabinet. "Money cannot buy his sort of

experience," he says. "Oh yes, it can," says Elton John. Manchester United loses for the first time in season. "These are early days," says Alex Ferguson. John Major breaks a fingernail in training and the big fight is postponed. American scientist claims that obesity helps to prevent heart attacks. Russian scientist proves that the 21st century has already started. Spice Girls threaten to make comeback.

DECEMBER '98. The Blessed Virgin Mary appears to a Portuguese peasant girl in a vision and tells her that she is, on balance, in favour of a single European currency, though there are bound to be

teething problems. Tony Blair goes on holiday in balloon belonging to Richard Branson. Scientists discover a new strain of flu bug which flourishes only in cars caught in traffic jams on the M25. Tony Blair defends his decision to invite Father Christmas to join Cabinet by saying: "Money cannot buy his experience of winter retail trade cycles." Blessed Virgin Mary reappears to peasant girl and urges her to get linked up to the Internet, as reappearing in these visions really takes it out of her. George Foreman falls asleep in third round. John Major disqualified for incessant talking. Snow. Floods. Last minute Christmas shopping, 1999 starts.

Two wedding  
it's back in fa

KATHY  
MARKS  
DANIEL  
HILL



## Two weddings and it's back in fashion



**KATHY MARKS**  
**JO AND HELEN SAY 'I DO'**

It would be difficult to find two less likely converts to the state of wedded bliss than the actress Helen Mirren and the comedian Jo Brand. Mirren, despite her legions of middle-aged admirers, always said she was not the marrying type. Brand has built a career around venomous sideswipes at the male of the species. Yet both, to general astonishment, took the plunge over the festive season.

Mirren wed her partner, the film director Taylor Hackman, in a remote church in the Scottish Highlands on New Year's Eve. Brand reportedly told friends via a line in their Christmas cards that she had just tied the knot with her boyfriend, Bernie Bourke, a psychiatric nurse.

Two very different women have become unexpected standard-bearers for the institution of marriage, bucking the trend of long-term decline in the number of couples prepared to tie the knot. What made Mirren, at the age of 51, after 12 years of cohabitation with Hackman? What was it that prompted Brand to hoist the white flag and agree to share her bed with the enemy?

None of the conventional reasons apply. Neither of these successful and independent women needed a mate to provide a home, a *raison d'être* or financial security. Living in sin lost its stigma long ago. Nor are there children on the scene, the advent of which often acts as an incentive for couples in long-term relationships to renounce their ideological resistance to marriage. Mirren is well past child-bearing age and Brand, as far as one knows, is not pregnant.

Mirren's case is particularly interesting because it reflects a growing perception that a small social revolution is stirring. Despite the gloomy statistics, despite the number of times that marriage's obituary has been written, there is anecdotal evidence that the wedded state is creeping back into fashion. Couples, particularly older couples who may have been together for more than a decade, are confounding their friends by slipping away to the register office and plighting their troth.

According to Oliver James, the clinical psychologist, hostility towards marriage is rooted in the parental example. If you abhor the values espoused by your parents, you reject the institution that they represent. But as people mature, he says, they tend to soften and grow more tolerant, and may end up emulating the generation that they once despised. At 39, Brand, despite her bawdy, man-hating image – one of her gags is “never trust a man with testicles” – is past the stage of youthful rebelliousness. Her own parents split up about 20 years ago. She had only been seeing Bourke for about a year, but like many offspring of broken homes, she may have craved the security conferred by a public affirmation of love and commitment. Perhaps the ticking of her biological clock had begun to deafen her. Maybe at heart she is just an old-fashioned, middle-class girl.

Mirren, who seems to grow more alluring with every year that passes, told the American magazine *People* only two months

ago that she could never see herself wearing a wedding ring. Not married before, and with no children, she was once quoted as saying: “I think marriage is a miraculous and wonderful thing. But, like lobster, it's just not to my taste. I don't see what everyone gets so excited about.” Hackford, who shares a home with her in Los Angeles, had also said that he saw no need for nuptials.

Then they went ahead and did it after all. Perhaps Mirren, voted the sexiest woman on television earlier this year by *Radio Times* readers, held out for so long because, aware of her physical charms, she never felt the need to grab the first good man on offer. Maybe, given the soaring divorce rate, she feared failure – or, like many happily cohabiting couples, was anxious that marriage would change things, exert new and dangerous pressures that would end up wrecking a successful relationship.

Why walk up the aisle, in the face of so many compelling reasons to avoid that perilous trip? Virginia Ironside, *The Independent's* agony aunt, believes that some couples opt for marriage after years of living together in order to spice up a mundane relationship. “It's saying: ‘let's take another risk with our lives together, let's get even closer,’” she says.

The prognosis for such couples is, unfortunately, not rosy. Men and women who tie the knot after living together are far more likely to get divorced than those who dive



Here come the unlikely brides:  
Helen Mirren (top) and Jo Brand

straight into wedlock. Virginia Ironside thinks that some underestimate the impact that getting married will have on their lives. “It's a huge step,” she says. “People don't take account of the enormous difference that marriage makes to a relationship. The outside world sees you in a very different light, and you're not prepared for that.”

Mirren and Brand have decided to ignore the doom merchants, and are instead taking their cue from the ancient Greeks. For, as one passage in Homer's *Odyssey* has it: “There is nothing nobler or more admirable than when two people who see eye to eye keep house as man and wife, confounding their enemies and delighting their friends.”

Why did these two women decide to get married at this point in their lives? Perhaps no one ever asked them before.

## They're so out of it they can't face reality (the law-makers, that is)

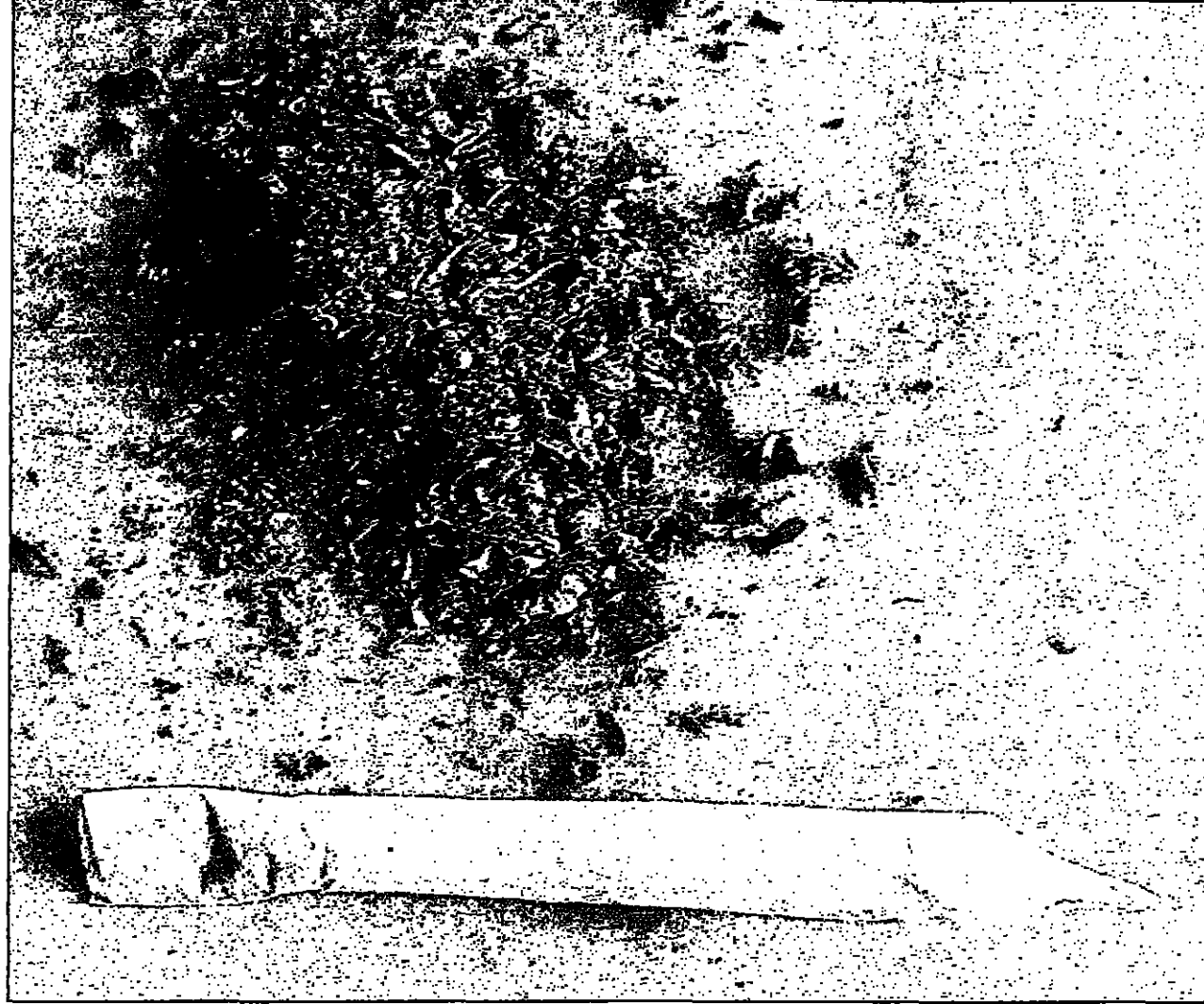


**SUZANNE MOORE**  
**A STATE OF DENIAL**

Here I am back in the land of freedom and reason, having just returned from a few days in Iceland (a real nanny state), and what do I find but an unbelievable muddle about a ten-quid deal in a pub. It all makes me want to inhale. Inhale, as in a sharp intake of breath. I realise, of course, that even to use the word is controversial in these zero-tolerance days. If you ask me – and why would you, when my mind has been addled by substances that cabinet minister X's son can only dream about – Tony Blair's joke that unlike Clinton, had he smoked dope he would have inhaled reveals him to be not a great wit, but something of a social outcast.

Obviously, had any member of the Cabinet ever inhaled, they would not be doing the good works that they are now, such as swiping money from lone mothers. Instead they would be kicking their doors down to nick their videos. Had any tabloid journalists ever inhaled, they would not be able to uphold the standards of investigative journalism that we so value, as they would be too busy dealing in lowlife misery and sin. Had any police officers ever inhaled they would not be able to exercise such clear judgement as they have in this case. And had any government spin doctors ever attended what is bizarrely being referred to as a “spliff party”, they would have become totally detached from reality, and be living in some hazy world of their own.

Thank goodness none of this has happened, and that we have such a sensible drugs policy, and that everyone is being so responsible. The minister concerned has responsibly made his son confess, the tabloid reporter has responsibly had the hash tested to make sure she got her money's worth, the editor concerned has responsibly told us that the young man is into drugs in “a fairly alarming manner”. The father wants to be named, but he would be breaking the law, even though everyone has a shrewd idea who he is anyway. We cannot have him breaking the law just because his son has, and we certainly cannot question the law even though it is obviously not a very sensible one.



Photograph: Mykel Nicolaou

The excuse for all this sanctimonious twaddle and hypocrisy is that it is being done in the name of protection. Children must be protected from drugs even though nearly half of them by the age of 15 will have tried cannabis anyway. The Government must protect the minister concerned. The boy's identity must be protected although it has been so hinted at that it will soon become common knowledge. To protect someone is to assume responsibility for them, rather than letting them make up their own mind: thus responsibility – a favourite word of this clean and sober administration – must be assumed at all times, even when it cannot be guaranteed.

Parents are responsible for the misdemeanours of their children, even when these children are nearly adult. They are responsible when they will not go to school, and do bad things, because the state wants to shift responsibility away from itself and back onto parents. Fair enough. But the paradox is that the state itself is responsible for telling us that it is us and not they who are now to be held responsible. Is it possible to impose a sense of responsibility in this way?

Well, if it is, then how can the same state now allow us to be responsible for what we choose to inhale? Yet again, all talk of the decriminalisation of cannabis, a sensible and often dull debate, is being overshadowed by hysteria about drugs in general. The

spectre of drug-related crime has been raised. Show me what crimes are committed by mongered-out dope smokers and middle-class puffers, apart from the odd bit of shoplifting, and I will begin to take this seriously. Otherwise, why cannot politicians brought up in the 1960s make the distinction between different kinds of drugs that 15-year-olds make with ease?

Are those in government really as far removed from reality as they appear? One hoped that a younger government would not continue to perpetuate the feeling that its members do not know much about the country they are governing. Once more there appears to be two nations, the poor misguided out-of-touch warriors fighting a war on drugs that their counterparts in America admit they have already lost, that is full of imagery about evil pushers and horrible addicts, that has Leah Betts as its patron saint of ignorance, that believes prohibition works contrary to all the evidence, that cannot recognise its own children and when it finally does, hauls them down to the police station. This is the nation that is out of control, that has got itself into the fine mess that the minister is in today. These are the people we should be concerned about – the sad deluded souls who cannot deal with reality except by ignoring it.

The other nation just does its own illegal thing. It knows that Noel Gallagher was being truthful when he said that for some people taking drugs was

like having a cup of tea. It knows that drugs can make you have a good time and sometimes can make you have a terrible time. It understands that much of the music that it likes could not be made without inhaling. It also made “The Drugs Don't Work” a number one hit. It has an independent mind because it knows that neither the media nor the Government tells the truth about drugs. It knows that ecstasy does not always kill, that cannabis does not lead to heroin, and it knows these things because this is its experience. It knows people who should not take drugs, whose lives are ruined by them, and it knows that sometimes drugs are the symptoms not the cause of that ruin. It knows that drugs are a phase, and that they can make you very boring indeed. It knows, in other words, that none of this is a big deal, or even the small deal that all this fuss is over.

How can these two nations begin to communicate with each other? How can the father

sit down with the son that has caused him all this trouble and say, not “you are stupid”, but “you are ordinary”? How can politicians, never mind their pressurised children, admit that they have also made mistakes? Cannabis does not lead to hard drugs any more than being the child of a politician leads to soft drugs.

Honesty is the only way, but our terribly responsible law will not allow it. Sometimes the only way to change the law is to break it, but that is not an option for a cabinet minister. Those in power who speak of any kind of drug-taking as a way of avoiding reality should consider that they have themselves created a situation in which realities cannot properly be faced. I worry about those people. They are so completely out of it that they cannot see what is in front of their faces; their wasted lives are full of empty promises. One day they will deal with the drugs problem. Meanwhile their own children just deal with it. Failing that, they just deal.

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## Welfare reform? We really don't have any choice



**KEN JACKSON**  
**LABOUR AND NECESSITY**

Tony Blair is right to stand firm on reforming welfare. Labour was elected to modernise Britain, not to defend the status quo. And just as Labour was trusted in 1945 to build the welfare state, now it is entrusted with its reform. As we have seen in recent weeks, some in Labour's ranks are uncomfortable with change. They always are. But we cannot afford to let them derail the reform that Tony Blair has rightly set in train. Those of us who remain committed to the welfare state know that there is no other option.

The simple truth is that our system of welfare does not work. It does not deliver help to those most in need. It does not help us fight the war on poverty. And it has lost sight of the values upon which it was founded. Responsibility, independence, dignity – values that guided the pioneers of the welfare state but values that have been dropped along the way.

Yes, some argue that values are less important than the

amount of money we spend. They believe more money equals a better welfare state. They are wrong. The Conservatives increased welfare spending. They also increased the number of people living in poverty. Labour will do better.

And we should not forget the implications of the costs of welfare. Those who demand more spending appear to live in a world in which money does indeed grow on trees. The rest of us do not have that luxury. We spend £100bn a year on welfare – six times as much as we do on education. Welfare takes a third of all public spending. And as welfare bills rise, we watch our public transport grind to a halt and our hospitals struggle to survive. The cost of welfare makes it impossible to prioritise spending across the range of government departments.

Nor are people prepared to pay more for a system that does not work. Each working day, every ordinary working man and woman pays £14 to fund the

aspirations of the advocates of higher welfare spending. But they are often left out of the debate. They should not be taken for granted.

For most working people know that the system is abused, albeit by a minority. And just as people in genuine need have the right to help, working people have the right to expect that the system they fund is in working order. They understand the need for reform. That is why so many returned to Labour, because Labour had stopped defending what clearly did not work.

Yes, reform means facing difficult decisions. But if Labour is serious about modernising welfare – and I believe it is – there can be no excuse for ducking them. And yes, change is unsettling. But change becomes hope if reform is explained, if people understand that it will bring a brighter future. It requires both courage and compassion. The two are not mutually exclusive.

But Britain is not alone in

adapting welfare to present-day needs. Around the world, industrialised nations are coming to terms with profound economic and social change. Even Sweden, where at one time three-quarters of the population

**Change will require courage and compassion. The two are not mutually exclusive**

were net recipients of welfare, is embarking on reform. Sweden, like other nations, knows that it cannot let welfare spending spiral further out of control.

Why? Because like Britain, nations across the world

understand that high welfare spending can be an obstacle to long-term competitiveness. Some of our European partners know to their cost that high social costs lead in part to high unemployment. If Britain is to survive and prosper, both public spending and taxation must be kept in check. Global capital, international competition, multinational companies – all leave us with no option.

So let us have a debate about welfare. Let us discuss how best we can reform it to help people into work, to help those in genuine need, to encourage competitiveness and investment in Britain. But let's not waste time deciding whether reform is necessary. The people decided on 1 May that they wanted a modernising government. Labour made clear then that it would reform welfare. It is up to all of us to help it achieve its aims.

The writer is General Secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union.



# 18/OBITUARIES



Grace and beauty and animal intensity: Mifune in *Rashomon* (1950)

## Toshiro Mifune

Toshiro Mifune, actor and film and television producer: born Qingdao, Manchuria 1 April 1920; married 1950 Sachiko Yoshimura (deceased); two sons; marriage dissolved 1970; secondly Miki Kitagawa (one daughter); died Tokyo 24 December 1997.

It was the very great director Akira Kurosawa who discovered Toshirō Mifune, the greatest of all Japanese movie actors, and starred him in a dozen or so absolute masterpieces. In all, Mifune made about 130 films, but it is mainly Kurosawa's that he is remembered by. Because of their international success, their star became known in Japan as Sakai no Mifune or "World-wide Mifune".

He was born in 1920 in Manchuria, where his parents were stationed and where his father had a photographic studio. He was educated at Dairen High School, where he excelled at national sports like karate, archery and swordsmanship, skills that were to serve him well in his screen career. For a while, he took over his father's photography business, and because of his experience of photographic techniques he was assigned to a photography unit when war broke out and he joined the air force. He hated it.

At the end of the war he went to Tokyo and stayed with a friend who was working as a cameraman at the Toho Movie Company and who encouraged him to apply for a job there. He sent in his CV but, as luck would have it, the document was sent by mistake to the casting department, which was just then mounting a search for "new faces" on the cinema screen.

Four thousand people applied, of whom 16 men were chosen, including Mifune. They were trained in acting before the cameras by an old director, Eizo Tanaka, for three months. Mifune's first, unremarkable screen appearance was in 1946, in *Shin baka judai* ("New Age Follies"). But he was noticed by Kurosawa, who had written the scenario for Mifune's second movie, the 1947 *Gintei no hate* ("Over the Silver Peak"), directed by Sankichi Taniguchi and also starring another Kurosawa discovery, Takashi Shimura, who was later to play the woodcutter in *Rashomon*. Kurosawa chose Mifune to appear in the lead of the 1948 *Yoidore tenshi* ("The Drunken Angel") and so created a new rebel movie star.

In his autobiography, *Gama no abura* ("Oil of Toad", 1982), Kurosawa describes the impact the "hooligan" Mifune made on him: "Mifune had the kind of talent I had never encountered before in the Japanese film world. It was, above all, the speed with which he expressed himself that was astounding. The ordinary Japanese actor might need 10 feet of film to get across an impression; Mifune needed only three feet. The speed of his movements was such that he said in a single action what took ordinary actors three separate movements to express. And yet with all his quickness he also had surprisingly fine sensibilities."

In 1949, Kurosawa starred him again in a controversial subject, *Shizuka naru koto* ("Quiet Duel"), about a doctor who has contracted syphilis while operating on an infected patient, and so refuses to marry. It is a truly absorbing film, and at the present time its relevance to the AIDS epidemic lends it a disturbing topicality. In the same year, Kurosawa produced *Nora*

*Inu* ("Stray Dog"), a detective thriller that won the Geijutsu-sai Grand Prize, followed in 1950 by *Skydancer* ("Scandal") about the pernicious effects of scandal magazines and what were to become known as the Japrazzi.

Nineteen fifty was the year of what is perhaps Kurosawa's greatest masterpiece, *Rashomon*, and one of Mifune's greatest performances. It was in several ways a revolutionary film, with a script presenting the story from four different points of view. The camerawork by Kazuo Miyagawa is breathtaking in its speed in following Mifune's athletic exploits, often shooting directly into the sun with dazzling flashes among bamboo thickets.

Kurosawa's direction of Mifune encouraged him to act "like a panther": he showed his star documentaries of panthers and leopards in action, and the spectator can only marvel at the grace and beauty and animal intensity of everything Mifune does, whether fighting or languorously reclining in total sensual abandon as the hit of his sword slides up his thigh. The film was awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival in 1951, and won an Oscar for the Best Foreign Film in the same year.

The next Kurosawa/Mifune work was *Hakuchi* (1951), based on Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*, and is remarkable because it is set, not in St Petersburg, but in the snows of Hokkaido. Japan's northernmost island. Mifune plays Rogojin with expressive insight into the complex character, while Setsuko Hara is a luminous *Nastassia Philippona*—another great "new face" in the making.

It was one of those films that

broke Kurosawa's heart when the production company Shochiku unfeelingly cut it down to a commercial length. It was only the news of *Rashomon*'s European success that kept him going on his next project with Mifune, the first of the great samurai westerns, *Seven Samurai*, which did not see the light until 1954. Meanwhile, Mifune triumphed in 1952 in Kenji Mizoguchi's masterpiece *Saikaku ichidai onna* ("The Life of the Courtesan Ohara"), playing the tragic lowly samurai Katsunosuke, a victim of love. It won the Venice International Prize for Mizoguchi, while *Seven Samurai* won the San Marco Silver Lion. In 1969, John Sturges re-made it as *The Magnificent Seven*.

It was the golden age of the Japanese cinema, with Mifune appearing in a series of Kurosawa samurai classics and more literary, thought-provoking themes as in the 1955 *Ikimono no kiroku* ("Record of a Living Being"), a deeply moving meditation on the threat of atomic warfare, in which Mifune convincingly played an old man beset by fears of nuclear annihilation who is unable to convince his family of the threat they live under. Mifune plays a medieval Japanese lord in the 1957 version of *Macbeth* called *Kumonosujo*, whose English title, *Throne of Blood*, is a poor substitute for a direct translation of the Japanese, "Castle of Spiders".

In the same year, we had Mifune as the thief in Gorky's *Donzoko* ("Lower Depths"), again set in feudal Japan, using a single set with brilliant inventiveness. Nineteen sixty-one brought Mifune fans *Yojimbo* for which he won the Best Actor Award at the Venice Film

Festival. It was made into a spaghetti western by Serge Leone in 1964 under the title *A Fistful of Dollars*. In 1962, Mifune started his own production company, after disagreements with Kurosawa, with whom he made his final film, *Akagi* (*Red Beard*) in 1965, and was awarded the Grand Prix. But it was too long and static, and was not a success.

Mifune's only film made for his own production company was not a success, so he built an open set on waste land in Setagaya Seijo and concentrated on television films, in many of which he acted. The samurai movies made with Kurosawa during the 1960s were now most often associated with him, but he was also in great demand from foreign directors, playing dignified but stereotyped Japanese in John Frankenheimer's *Grand Prix* (1966), John Boorman's *Hell in the Pacific* (1968) and Steven Spielberg's *1941* (1980) among other less worthy movies, like Terence Young's *Red Sun* (with Alain Delon and Charles Bronson) in 1971.

He finally had the open set at Setagaya torn down and built a luxurious block of apartments in its place. He was ailing, and his first wife, whose divorce had been a particularly painful affair, returned to look after him until she died of cancer a few years ago. He still worked occasionally, though he was developing Alzheimer's disease.

Toshiro Mifune is still "World-wide Mifune", for he is the one Japanese that everyone readily recognises and remembers. He died on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the death of another great legend, Charlie Chaplin.

—James Kirkup

## Johnny Coles

Johnny Coles, trumpeter: born Trenton, New Jersey 3 July 1926; died Philadelphia 21 December 1997.

"Johnny moves by the moment," said pianist Herbie Hancock. "He plays things with such sheer beauty that I wonder where it's coming from."

Johnny Coles would perhaps have been regarded as one of the jazz greats had he not been so close to Miles Davis in his sound and style. Both Coles and Davis had the ability to express themselves powerfully using a minimal number of notes. The similarities clouded the fact that Coles's inventions were completely original and that he barely borrowed from Davis at all. He was basically a self-taught musician who developed his playing by working in a military band.

The diminutive trumpeter joined a sextet called Slappy and his Swingsters when he was 19, and in 1948 became a member of the band led by the blues-singing alto player Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson. Although Vinson played the rhythm-and-blues so popular at the time, he was in fact a sophisticated mod-

ern jazz musician, and his band also included future giants of music in the pianist Red Garland and the tenor saxophonist John Coltrane.

Coles continued to work amidst a mixture of contemporary jazz and rhythm-and-blues during the first half of the Fifties when he played for the drummer Philly Jo Jones, the singer-saxophonist Bull Moose Jackson and, from 1956 to 1958, the tenor saxophonist James Moody.

He first came to the notice of jazz fans with his remarkable solos with the Gil Evans orchestras between 1958 and 1964. In retrospect this proved to be the ultimate setting for his work. When I interviewed him in 1973 he told me:

Gil Evans's composition was easy to read, but it was the interpretation of it which made the music. I remember once asking Gil how he wanted me to play something and he said, "Don't worry about it. You're going to play it right anyhow." He left me a bit mystified, you know.

The 1960 "Sunken Treasure", one of the most haunting performances in all jazz, best illustrates the inspired perfection of the partnership. Evans's composition provided an eerie seabed for Coles's fastidious and plaintive improvisation. "We

did it all in one take," he told me with pride. The album in which it is found, one of the most magical jazz collections, was called *Out of the Cool* on the Impulse! label, and its six tracks brought out Coles's most effective work on disc. Potent, too was his reappraisal in 1959 of Bix Beiderbecke's "Davenport Blues", where again his relaxed choice of notes was inspired by Evans's imaginative setting.

When work with Evans became more sporadic in 1964 Coles joined the Charlie Mingus Workshop and appeared on some of the bassist's recordings, creating music of great fire with the remarkable saxophonist Eric Dolphy.

In 1968 he became a member of the sextet newly formed by Herbie Hancock. Hancock had earlier given up leadership of his own band to become, for five years, the pianist in one of Miles Davis's most influential quintets.

"Herbie Hancock's was the only group I played in that I got to work ahead of time. I'd warm up for at least a half-hour, ready to play. I had a ball with that band. I really couldn't tell you in words how gratifying it was." Coles left Hancock to

join Ray Charles's band in 1969. "A man must eat," he reflected.

Hancock lionised the veteran. But Duke Ellington took a more detached view of the trumpeter when Coles joined his orchestra in 1971. "I asked Duke's son Mercer," Coles remembered, "and he said that Duke was considering writing something to feature me."

At the time of our conversation in 1973 Coles had been with Duke Ellington's Orchestra for several years. It seemed odd to me then that Ellington was so remote from the musicians who worked for him that he had to deal with him formally through Mercer.

A few weeks ago the widow of the Ellington trumpeter Ray Nance seemed to confirm this distancing when she told me that her husband respected his leader so much that "Ray would never have questioned a decision of Duke's, musical or otherwise." (In contrast, I was once on a coach with the Count Basie Band when his trumpeter Thad Jones reached over the back of his seat and, to great merriment all round, swiped the Count over the head with a rolled-up newspaper. Nobody could ever have done

that to Duke.) Nance had been in the band for a quarter of a century.

"I'll stay with Duke for a while, because it'll give me a measure of prestige that I haven't yet had," said Coles, who was with Ellington from 1970 to 1974.

He gave the impression that, unusually amongst musicians, who normally deified Ellington, he considered working for him to be a routine job. "As far as Gil was concerned, Ellington was the biggest influence on his writing. I enjoy playing in both bands, but I had more freedom playing in Gil's band," he said.

Coles found Ellington's music too confining. "I like to play," he said. This was a useful reference to the fact that his solo work with Duke was confined at each concert to a fluent two-minute improvisation on "How High the Moon" played on trumpet over a backing of sprightly Be-bop piano from Ellington. There was little or no orchestration involved.

"Some of Duke's writing is sparse. Sometimes he might just write 12 bars and leave it to the guys in the band to fill it up. He has musicians in the band who have been with him for



Coles: fastidious and plaintive improvisation

Photograph: Val Wilmer

many years and they just about know what he wants without him having to tell them." Coles was lonely because Ellington's band was made up of cliques and he wasn't accepted into any of them.

When Ellington died in 1974 Coles rejoined Ray Charles and in 1976 worked with drummer Art Blakey's quintet.

Settled in San Francisco, in 1985 he worked in the Count Basie "graveyard" band (Basie had died in 1984), having also been a member of "graveyard" bands devoted to the music of the composers Charlie Mingus and Tadd Dameron. His health declined during the Nineties and he moved to Philadelphia.

Coles had shown enormous talent as a trumpet player. He mentioned Charlie Shavers, Roy Eldridge, Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis as the line of players who had influenced him. He also acknowledged the fiery work of Freddie Hubbard. "But I'm more of a melancholy player," he said.

—Steve Voce

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

### DEATHS

POSS: Brian Malzard, Emeritus Professor of Psychology, University of London, died peacefully in hospital on 23 December. Funeral at Morlake Crematorium on Thursday 9 January at 3pm. Family flowers only. A memorial gathering is being arranged, details to be announced.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1, Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171 293 2802 (24-hour answering machine) or faxed to 0171 293 2010. They are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

The OBITUARIES e-mail address is obituaries@independent.co.uk. The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171 293 2000.

Changing of the Guard  
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, hand provided by the Grenadier Guards.

### Birthdays

Mr David Bailey, photographer and film director, 60; Sir Richard Baylis, former Physician to the Queen, 81; Mr Leopold Brook, former chairman, Simon Engineering, 86; Mr Christopher Campbell, chairman, British Shipbuilders, 62; Admiral William J. Crowe, former US ambassador, 75; The Duke of Devonshire, former Chancellor of Manchester University, 78; Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, former director, Institute of Geological Sciences, 88; Mr David Greaves, cricketer, 44; Mr Walter Harrison, former MP, 77; Mr Algeron Heber-Percy, Lord-Lieutenant for Shropshire, 54; Sir Bruce Pannillo, governor, the Bank of Scotland, 60; Sir Charles Reece, former research and technology director, ICI, 71; Mr Edmund de Rothschild, director, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 82; Air Marshal Sir Ernest Sides, 85; Professor John Thomas, chemist, 72; Sir Keith Thomas, president, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 65; Sir Michael Tippett, OM, CBE, composer, 93; Dame Rachel Watkinson, former chairman, Consumers' Association, 75; Mr Robert Wilton, chairman, Witton Enterprises Ltd, 53; The Right Rev Kenneth Woolcombe, Assistant Bishop, Worcester, 74.

### Anniversaries

Birch's James Wolfe, general, 1727; Count Folke Bernadotte at Wisborg, soldier, humanitarian and diplomat, 1848; George Gilbert Scott, architect, 1827; Isac Azimov, Russian-born biochemist and science-fiction writer, 1920; Deaths: Ovid (Publius Ovidius Naso), Roman poet, 17; Barthold

Georg Niebuhr, historian, 1831; Fabian Gottlieb Bellinghousen, polar explorer, 1852; Sir George Bidell Airy, astronomer royal, 1892; Sir Edward Augustus Bond, librarian of the British Museum, 1898; Sabine Baring-Gould, clergyman and author, 1924; Eleanor Rathbone, social reformer, 1946; Dick Emery, comedian, 1983. On this day: the Spanish army recaptured Granada from the Moors, 1492; the Académie Française was established by Cardinal Richelieu, 1635; Louis Daguerre took the first photograph of the Moon, 1839; Wagner's opera *The Flying Dutchman* was first produced, Dresden, 1843; Sir Robert Napier led a British expedition to Abyssinia (Ethiopia) to release the imprisoned British Consul, 1868; the first municipal crematorium was opened at Hull, 1901; King Zog of Albania, absent from his country, was deposed, 1946; cupronickel coins were issued in the United Kingdom to replace silver, 1947; the first rocket to pass near the Moon—the unmanned Russian *Luna 1*—was launched, 1959; 66 people died after a barrier collapsed at Ibrox Park football ground, Glasgow, 1971. Today is the Feast Day of St Adalhard or Adalard, St Basil, St Caspar dei Bufalo, St Gregory Nazianzen, St Macarius of Alexandria, St Muenchin, St Seraphim of Sarov, St Vincentian and The Holy Name of Jesus.

### Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Courtauld Louvre (1): Panagiotis, The Madonna and Child with Saints John the Baptist and Jerome", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museums: Julian Litten, "English Stained and Painted Glass 1350-1500", 2.30pm.

## FAITH & REASON

### Why the other lights of the world are not fakes

The Christ-child brings light to the darkness. But the same metaphor is crucial to Judaism and Islam. Adherents of the three faiths cannot afford to ignore each other, argues the Rev Keith Ward, Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford. Rather each light must reflect the brightness of those that surround it.

"Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."

A common theme in the religious mythologies of the world is the cosmic battle between light and darkness, between beauty and chaos. The first creation story in the book of Genesis is held to be holy by Judaism, Christianity and Islam alike—speaks of the formless sea of chaos, over which swept the breath of God, bringing ordered complexity, beauty and life into being in successive waves of creative power.

But the first divine act was the man-

ifestation of light. This is the light of divine glory, or beauty, which exists before sun, stars or moon, and which will remain in that new creation at the end of history in which there is no more sea. Human life now—between the beginning in chaos and the end in glory—is an interweaving of light and darkness, in which the material is being transfigured to become a vehicle for spirit.

The three great Abrahamic faiths tell different but related stories of the unfolding of this sacred cosmology. Isaiah, from whom the opening quotation is taken, sees the people of Israel as called by God to be the vehicle of divine light in a world of oppression and cruelty. They are to be the priests of the earth, their land is to be a sanctuary of justice and peace, and they are to be the exemplars of the marriage of creator and creature.

Islam opens up the law of divine wisdom, the *shari'ah*, to all people. One of the best loved verses of the Koran (xxiv, 35) says, "God is the Light... God doth guide whom He will to His light." By joyful submission to the law of God, darkness is dispelled by the presence of the Lord of light.

The Christian way finds the creative Word of God embodied in the person of Jesus, who becomes himself the liberator from darkness and the light of the world. His human personality becomes, for his disciples, the transparent vehicle of the divine light. United inseparably with the glory of God, his risen life is the source of the light which manifests to the world. The church is called to follow its Lord in serving the world in healing, forgiveness and reconciliation.

These three ways—the way of the people of the covenant, the community of the divine law, and the way of the "body of Christ"—are all ways of mediating light in darkness, of building beauty from chaos, of incarnating justice and loving-kindness in the world. If they strive with one another, they should do so in goodness. If they disagree, as they inevitably will, they should do so in love and respect.

A resolution for the faithful for this new year might be never to say, "My light is the only light, all others are fakes", but to say instead, "God is the only light, and He makes His light shine

where He wills". We in the Abrahamic traditions respond to the light that we have seen, by the grace of the one true God. We ourselves obscure that light, by our greed, hatred and ignorance. We must learn to discern the light wherever it shines, to encourage and cherish it.

It is even possible that the light we have will shine with its true brightness only when it reflects the lights that surround us. These lights of faith can lead us from the often willful ignorance which breeds misunderstanding and intolerance towards knowledge of the one reality of supreme goodness, whose true and uncreated light they dimly reflect.

In the words of the Second Vatican Council's constitution of the church in the modern world, *Gaudium et Spes*, "Since all men are in fact called to one and the same destiny, which is divine, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partners, in a way known to God, in the paschal mystery." And, one must add, in the Mosaic covenant and the community of true Muslims, those who submit their lives to God. Are our eyes, in this new year, prepared for such a light?



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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

## Non-Footsie players are 1997's biggest winners – and losers

Although blue chips dominated the stock market last year the rest of the herd has at least retained one of its traditional achievements – complete control of the winners and losers table. Footsie may have jumped by more than a fifth but not a solitary constituent feature in the top 10 shares or, indeed, the motley collection of biggest losers.

With their much smaller capital bases, the non-Footsie players invariably experience the biggest percentage price movements. So it is not surprising that two up-and-coming groups which started the year as tiddlers and ended with capitalisations of around £130m achieved star status.

Shield Diagnostic soared on exalted expectations that it had found a system for the early detection of heart disease. Robert Walters has scored by specialising in computer and financial recruitment. Sandwiched between them is Abacus Recruitment. It is still one of the third division players, capitalised at £21m.

The health group closed at 717.5p on New Year's Eve, a runaway winner. It has been

## WINNERS

	Closing price	% gain
Shield Diagnostic	717.5p	409
Abacus Recruit	330p	290
Robert Walters	521.5p	283
Gresham House	23.75p	280
Draw Scientific	84p	273
Coffee Republic	25p	233
Polydoc	152.5p	221
Gaskell	420p	197
Proudfoot	43p	185
Jarvis	397.5p	180

as high as 805p. Robert Walters ended at its peak, 521.5p.

Shield had an extremely volatile year. In March it looked more a candidate for the losers' table than the winners. Its shares were hit by sudden doubts about its AFT blood test. But it survived the panic which halved the price from 805p in a few weeks.

Later in the year Shield had to contend with the surprising and unsettling departure of its managing director, Gordon Hall.

More positive information about AFT and thoughts that Shield will strengthen its links with Abbott Laboratories, the US group helped the shares shrug off their anxiety. There is even a school of thought that Abbott could be tempted to mount a takeover bid. In 1995 the shares bumped along at 32p.

Third placed Robert Walters, floated in July last year at 105p, has enjoyed the double bonus of rapid expansion and operating in a growing and lucrative market. Profits in 1996 were £3.9m; something around £8m is likely for this year.

Runner-up Abacus has had a remarkable couple of years. It featured in last year's top 10. In 1996 it was possible to buy the shares at 16p. Its booming performance is due to rapid profits growth. It has already "warned" that its interim profits will exceed £800,000, matching the figure for the last full year.

Although it was a difficult year for many

of the blue-sky medical shares, Drew Scientific also gets in the top 10, more on hope than achievement.

Coffee Republic is probably the most intriguing winner. As Arion Properties it had, despite a strong Slater family involvement, a rather pedestrian existence. At the helm was Chris Slater, son of share tipster Jim. Bahamas-based mega-rich trader Joseph Lewis (Christie's International, Glasgow Rangers FC, etc) had 23.4 per cent.

Yet it was the arrival of Bobby Hashemi and his sister Sahar that enlivened the shares. Arion paid £3m in shares for their six London coffee bars. As news of the deal leaked out Arion was full of beans and when its shares were suspended ahead of the takeover announcement they had risen from 4.5p to 33.5p. They are now 25p.

It is an exceedingly rich price, capitalising the company at £14.2m. Not bad for a business, now consisting of seven coffee bars, which says it will not make money for two years and will need a rights issue to achieve

its target of 20 New York style coffee bars by December. The price values each of the coffee bars at more than £2m.

Property is well represented among the best performers, although only Gresham House makes it into the top 10. It had the dubious distinction of being the first investment trust to have negative net asset value and at one time seemed a certain candidate for the corporate graveyard. Slowly it has returned to health and is even back on the dividend list. Still, it is unlikely to recapture its glory days. In 1987, ahead of Black Monday, the shares were 650p.

Proudfoot, a management consultant, is also a survivor. It has suffered heavy losses but is now seen as recapturing some of its old sparkle. In 1993 its shares were 122.5p.

Jarvis, the construction group now deeply involved in the lucrative world of rail maintenance, is another to make the top 10 for two consecutive years. In 1995 its shares were 4.75p.

What about the losers? Although AIM supplied three of the top 10, no fewer than

seven of the worst performing shares are in the junior market. Of course, by its very nature, AIM has a high risk element and its shares carry a wealth warning. Still, such a strong losers' representation is worrying. AIM has had its successes but its crop of poor performers should be sounding alarm bells in the Stock Exchange Tower.

The four top (or bottom) of the losers list are AIM constituents. BKG Resources, it could be argued, suffered most of its indignity as fully listed Balcrychik Gold. After a series of mishaps the Russian gold explorer was relegated to the junior market. Its shares, now 10.5p, once nudged 600p.

Multimedia, a CD Rom group, has issued a series of profit warnings; shareholders in OmniMedia, another CD Rom casualty, seem advised to rest their hopes on some sort of reverse takeover. Crown Products, a giftware group, is attempting a refinancing. The fully listed casualties include retailer Storeale and pipe-layer AH Hall.

– Derek Pain

## Our three-year-old share picker leaves the professionals behind

A year ago we invited Amber Stevenson, the three-year old daughter of our City Editor, to test her mettle against the professionals by picking out 10 stocks at random with the use of a dart.

Not only did her selection comprehensively outperform that of her father, it also beat the share tips chosen by our panel of investment fund managers by a handsome margin. The average percentage increase in the stocks chosen by Amber was a thumping 41 per cent – double the rise in the FT All Share Index.

The star performer for Amber was the building and construction group Jarvis, whose shares soared from 142.5p to 398p – a gain of 179 per cent. Only three shares fell in value and one of those was also in the building sector, Linden slipping by 20p or 6 per cent over the year.

Elsewhere, it was a story of unalloyed success, spurred up by picking one takeover target (T&N) and a recovery stock, MDIS, which was a basket-case at the start of the

year following a string of profit warnings but which ended the year 42 per cent higher.

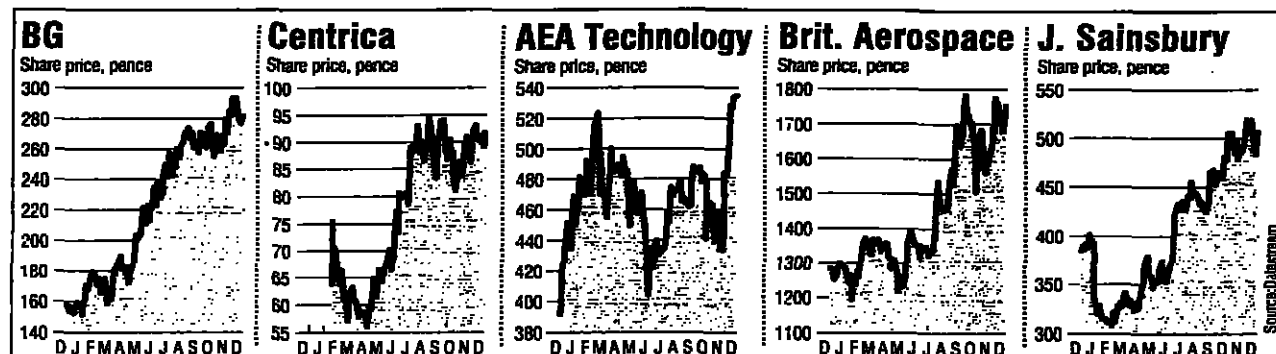
Her other big hitter was the business support services group Lavendon, which cashed in on the outsourcing craze, rising in value by 129 per cent from 157.5p to 360.5p. Her other tips were Tesco (+40 per cent), Critchley (-18 per cent), Roxspur (unchanged), Aukett (-21 per cent) and Gartmore British Income Trust (+10 per cent).

This year Amber has passed the baton, or rather the pin, to Ellen Harrison, aged four and a half, the daughter of The Independent's Deputy Business and City Editor.

Ellen clearly has a job on her hands if she is to outdo Amber but she has picked an interesting selection which runs as follows: Elnorac at 442.5p, Wobesley (503.5p), Peptide Therapeutics (266.5p), Signet (30p), Newcastle United (94.5p), Chez Gerard (282.5p), Nycomed Amersham (226.5p), Zeneca (2137p), Carpetright (445p) and Fitzwilliam (40p).



Ellen Harrison: Chose this year's selection with a pin



## Fund managers seek more solid gains

In a volatile year most of the fund managers who tipped shares for us managed to show solid gains. The average increase was exactly in line with the FT All Share Index at 20 per cent.

Julian Fosh of Scottish Amicable was the clear winner with British Gas. The shares were boosted by the split into two as British Gas became BG and Centrica, and a record £1.3bn buy-back, ending the year 62 per cent higher. A bottle of champagne to our victor.

A worthy performance also from AEA Technology, tipped by Bernard Clark of Hill Samuel Asset Management. The former division of the Atomic Energy Authority reaped the benefits of diversification. British Aerospace, the choice of Vanessa James at Legal & General, had a good year. Borne aloft by its strong order book and improving fortunes at Airbus, Sainsbury's fulfilled the promise of Tom Crombie at Scottish Equitable.

At the other end of the scale, the sickly performance of the biotech sector knocked a hole in Skypharm. Justin Scager's tip at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

This year's recommendations come from most of the same fund managers as last year plus a welcome debut by M&G.

**John Hatherly, M&G Investment Management. Tip: First Choice Holidays 100p**

First Choice, the UK's third largest tour operator, is on the mend and well placed to benefit from the buoyant demand for holidays and changes in the structure of the industry. The present management team has brought stability to the group, enabling it to exploit its strong market position.

Profits for the year to October 1998 are forecast to increase by roughly 50 per cent to around £30m, implying a p/e ratio of just 13 times. Operating margins of 1.7 per cent are moving swiftly towards the 4 per cent norm for the sector. The changes in the industry should favour First Choice.

**Vanessa Williams, Legal and General. Tip: Unilever 521p**

Unilever has built dominant market shares in products as diverse as margarine (Flora), detergents (Persil) and ice cream (Magnum). Under the leadership of Niall FitzGerald it has started to focus more clearly on creating shareholder value. Unilever has been shedding non-core business and making bolt-on acquisitions such as a Brazilian ice cream maker.

With an exceptionally strong balance sheet we expect this process to continue. Although the shares have performed well in 1997, anticipating the benefits of the new strategy, we expect further performance in 1998.

**Colin McLean, Scottish Value Management. Tip: British Energy 423p**

While events in the Far East have increased risk internationally, domestic businesses should do well. British Energy, the nuclear power generator, has already been outperforming. This has taken it to a market capitalisation of over £3bn, and into the FTSE 100 index, but the shares are still cheap. Institutional investors still have relatively low exposure to the company, privatised in 1996, which is now demonstrating much better than expected profitability.

It is benefiting from the extension of the remaining life of its eight nuclear power stations, which it must ultimately decommission, as well as from increasing output and cost savings.

## 'Independent' team's hopes for 1998

It was not only PDFM's Tony Dye who read the runes badly in 1997. After respectably outperforming the market in 1996, The Independent's share selections for this year have, with one or two exceptions, been lacklustre. We failed to capitalise on the surge in banking and pharmaceutical stocks.

For 1998 we have come up with a spread of stocks we hope will perform rather better. The biggest winner in 1998 is likely to be a bid victim, probably in the financial sector. But picking bid targets is an inexact science so the list is slanted towards stocks with either good growth or recovery prospects.

Leisure stocks feature prominently, beginning with Trocadero. After a breathtaking rise the shares have crashed from a high 79.5p to stand at 17.5p. The problem has been not the flagship West End complex but Segaworld, the hi-tech games park which proved an embarrassing flop for the old management team.

Replacements John Conlan and Nick Tamblin are poised to resurrect the group's fortunes. The pair built up First Leisure from scratch and now have more than £100m at their disposal to start all over again. The group's rights to all of Enid Blyton's books and characters could also turn out to be a little goldmine.

Greenalls, the pub company, is another potential recovery stock. The company overpaid for Boddingtons two years ago and its shares have fallen sharply since last year's high of over 600p. Now at 439p they are off their low but should climb higher. Management is increasing capital expenditure with 20 new pubs and 600 new bedrooms in its De Vere hotels division. It is rolling out more pub formats such as its Miller's Kitchen brand, while underperforming boozers are being pushed into the tenanted estate. If current

management cannot deliver a re-rating, a potential predator could break the group up.

Our final choice in this sector is Northern Leisure, the fast-growing operator of licensed dance halls. The shares have doubled in value over the last 12 months and now sell at 30 times historic earnings. But earnings per share are expected to grow from 12.8p this year to 20p next year and 30p in 1999. If so the shares should top £5 in 1998.

Another area which looks promising is the UK's nursing home sector, shaping up for a better 1998. Local authorities have bigger budgets to pay for long-term care and consolidation has removed some of the more disreputable operators.

Tamaris is one of the smartest left. Though capitalised at just £18m, it has grown profitably from 234 beds in 1994 to almost 5,000 now. It leases rather than owns its homes, allowing it to expand with minimal capital and with no direct exposure to the volatile property market. Tamaris' management has achieved returns of more than 25 per cent and average occupancy of almost 90 per cent. Tamaris is on 1998/9 p/e of just 7.5 times, with the shares at 2.25p.

Another growth area in 1998 will be outsourcing – taking on tasks like IT contracted out by

large companies and government departments. Here our choice is WS Atkins. At 363.5p its shares trade at 18 times forecast earnings – modest compared to the sky-high ratings enjoyed by more established outsourcing groups. That gap should narrow this year as the group brings in new contracts. Its engineering consultancy division is pursuing overseas business, while Atkins also has a £43m cash pile to spend on acquisitions.

This year we have largely steered clear of industrial stocks with heavy exposure to sterling. But one stock that ought to be on the way up is BTR. It had a dreadful time of it in 1997 with repeated profit warnings and was the worst performing FTSE 100 stock. The strategy of selling off superfluous assets and concentrating on its core engineering capabilities is undoubtedly the right one, however, and its long term prospects are excellent.

Another index stock to tuck away for the new year is BSkyB. Its shares didn't do much better than BTR's last year. Sky faces a couple of years of flat or falling profits as it invests in its digital future. Growing competition and regulatory pressure mean it cannot hope to enjoy the same monopoly of subscription TV in the digital age that it had

with analogue. None the less Sky remains supremely well placed to exploit the opportunities of pay-per-view and interactive TV.

With independence for the UK's regions high on the political agenda, our "devolution stock" for 1998 is the Scottish-based Morrison Construction. The shares are up from 23p this time last year to 325.5p. The company has built everything from multiplex cinemas and supermarkets to hospitals and roads under the private finance initiative. It has thrived while most construction companies have struggled, and now has a market capitalisation of £220m. The shares are at a premium to the rest of the construction sector but cheap against the market.

In investment banking we have gone for Close Brothers – that rarest of endangered species, an independent British merchant bank. There is a bit of a bid play, but the main reason for tipping Close is its good run of earnings growth, driven by the Waterflood stock-broking arm and the ex-Hill Samuel corporate finance team. The shares have already climbed from 320.5p at the beginning of 1997 to 530.5p now, after hitting 549.5p in December. With a prospective p/e of 15 they hardly look overvalued.

And finally, to one of the all-time investment flops. Floated a decade ago at 350p, Eurotunnel shares have been underwater for as long as anyone can remember. They started 1997 at 77p and ended the year at 60.5p. But the debt refinancing is approved, the operating concession has been extended and the merger of the two ferry operators should mean fewer price wars and better revenues this year. Sooner or later the tunnel will turn into a licence to print money and although the first dividend is still on the distant horizon, 1998 may just be the year when Eurotunnel rediscovers itself.

**Tom Crombie, Scottish Equitable. Tip: Wobesley 483p**

It is tempting to choose a financial stock for the best performance in '98 because there will undoubtedly be more rationalisation within the sector. However, picking a single stock in the hope of takeover is a mug's game. My stock is therefore Wobesley, a well-managed distribution business with big shares in the plumbing and heating materials markets. They have produced good returns over the years. I like the mix of business with exposure in the US and Europe and they should be unaffected by events in the Far East. With building materials stocks currently out of favour, Wobesley, at 483p, is relatively cheap.

## FUND MANAGERS

How they performed in 1997	Tipped at	Price now	Gain/Loss
British Gas	224.5p	*363.5p	+62%
AEA Technology	396p	538p	+36%
British Aerospace	1280p	1735p	+35%
Sainsbury	388p	509p	+31%
Calm Energy	417p	496p	+19%
GEC	382p	394.5p	+3.3%
Barclays Unicom Prop	257.6p	264p	+2.5%
Skypharm	73.5p	54p	-25%
<b>Average performance</b>			<b>+20%</b>
FT All Share	2013.66	2411.00	+20%
FTSE100	4118.5	5135.5	+25%

\*aggregate of BG and Centrica prices following merger in February

## CLASSIFIED

<p><b>Charities</b></p> <p><b>CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS</b></p> <p>need our love and practical support, not just today but every day.</p> <p>Sadly, money cannot buy healthy kidneys but it can make life worth having.</p> <p><b>Donations urgently needed by</b></p> <p>The British Kidney Patient Association, Bordon, Hants. GU35 9JZ Reg. Charity No. 270288</p>	<p><b>Unusual Gifts</b></p> <p><b>BEER</b></p> <p>FOR THE PERSON WHO THINKS THEY HAVE EVERYTHING</p> <p>Personalised Hand Crafted Beer</p> <p>Your unique message printed on the label.</p> <p>No additives or preservatives, pasteurised lagers.</p> <p>ORDER now for Unique Gift</p> <p>4x330ml Bottles £8.95 (in presentation pack)</p> <p>UK 48hr service 0495</p> <p>Lugton Brewery 01505 88267</p>	<p><b>Legal Notices</b></p> <p><b>THE INDEMNITY REINS 1986</b> RELS 4.106(1)</p> <p><b>SOVEREIGN SHIRTS LIMITED</b></p> <p>IN LIQUIDATION</p> <p>PRINCIPAL TRADING ADDRESS: STYVENSON ROAD, CLIFTON ON SEL, SUSSEX, CO15 3JA</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given that Ian Francis, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of 14, Launceston Place, London W2 1EP, was appointed Liquidator of the Company on 17 December 1997.</p> <p>All creditors who have not already done so are required to prove their claims to the Liquidator before 4 February 1998 and, if so required by notice in writing, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof any claim shall be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.</p> <p>Dated 17 December 1997 I FRANCIS Liquidator</p>																																																			
<p><b>To advertise in the Classified section please call Claire Louise Donald on 0171 293 2347.</b></p>	<p><b>Calendars From Your Own Photos!</b></p> <p>Just send your 4 favourite photos (minimum, any size) and we will post you a 1998 full colour calendar with 12 months to a page. £12.95 (inc post, 5 day service).</p> <p>See day display.</p> <p>Charges payable to: The Photo Calendar Company Ltd, PO Box 6 Days Inn, Manchester, M60 3EL. Please ring for leaflet. Calendar deadline: 9th Dec 1997. www.calendarcompany.co.uk</p>	<p><b>GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS</b></p> <p>From 1945 until now we have been the only UK daily newspaper to be printed on 100% recycled paper.</p> <p>See day display.</p> <p><b>REMEMBER WHEN</b></p> <p>320 Percy Way, LS15 4RD 0181 688 6323 or call FREE 0500 520 000</p>																																																			
<p><b>CITY WRITERS</b></p> <p><b>How they performed in 1997</b></p> <table> <tr> <th></th><th>Tipped at</th><th>Price now</th><th>Gain/Loss</th></tr> <tr> <td>Sears</td><td>95p</td><td>52.5p</td><td>-48%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Storehouse</td><td>258p</td><td>237.5p</td><td>-8%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Alders</td><td>173p</td><td>236.5p</td><td>+37%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Pearson</td><td>749.5p</td><td>791p</td><td>+5.5p</td></tr> <tr> <td>Flextech</td><td>677.5p</td><td>527p</td><td>-22%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Pace Micro</td><td>230.5p</td><td>46p</td><td>-80%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Caspian</td><td>46p</td><td>23.5p</td><td>-49%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Asotot Holdings</td><td>285p</td><td>250p</td><td>-12%</td></tr> <tr> <td>British Taxpayers Assn.</td><td>28p</td><td>13.5p</td><td>-52%</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Average performance</b></td><td></td><td></td><td><b>-23%</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>FT All Share</td><td>2013.66</td><td>2411.00</td><td>+20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>FTSE100</td><td>4118.5</td><td>5135.5</td><td>+25%</td></tr> </table>		Tipped at	Price now	Gain/Loss	Sears	95p	52.5p	-48%	Storehouse	258p	237.5p	-8%	Alders	173p	236.5p	+37%	Pearson	749.5p	791p	+5.5p	Flextech	677.5p	527p	-22%	Pace Micro	230.5p	46p	-80%	Caspian	46p	23.5p	-49%	Asotot Holdings	285p	250p	-12%	British Taxpayers Assn.	28p	13.5p	-52%	<b>Average performance</b>			<b>-23%</b>	FT All Share	2013.66	2411.00	+20%	FTSE100	4118.5	5135.5	+25%	<p><b>INSOLVENCY ACT 1986</b> <b>GIBRALTAR HOUSE LIMITED</b></p> <p>(AN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of Gibraltar House Limited (the Company) will be held at the offices of Cooper &amp; Lybrand, Chartered Accountants, 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on 17 January 1998 at 11.00am, for the purpose mentioned in Section 48 and 49 of the Act.</p> <p>Creditors who claim are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. Other creditors are only entitled to vote.</p> <p>at they have given to the Administrative Receiver, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day on which the meeting is to be held. Details in writing of the debt that they claim to be due from them to the Company, and the amount of the claim, must be submitted to the Administrative Receiver at least 48 hours before the meeting.</p> <p>Dated December 23 1997 ROBERT WILLIAMS RECALL Administrative Receiver</p> <p>NOTE: Creditors of the Company requiring copies of the Administrative Receiver's report may obtain a free of charge, on written application to the Administrative Receiver at Cooper &amp; Lybrand, 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.</p>
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they will no longer benefit from two trade papers, the *Racing Post* having been taken over by the owners of *The Sporting Life*. And when they have cause for complaint there is no organization to back them, the National Association for the Protection of Punters having ceased operations on New Year's Eve.

**yeaball to eyeba**

**RANT ALTON**

...of non-stop  
...ahead for the  
...of Meric Cup  
...the Whitbread  
...and the World Race  
...on Sunday

**rnsd boo**  
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**nbitons**



## Eyeball to eyeball sailing as the fleet puts on its sprinting shoes to New Zealand



GRANT DALTON

Five days of non-stop action lie ahead for the skipper of Merit Cup when the Whitbread Round the World Race restarts on Sunday

Five days with everyone sitting on the side to Auckland? There seems to be an expectation in Sydney that is how the fourth leg of the Whitbread Round the World race will unfold. Eyeball to eyeball sailing. A sprint of an intensity never before seen in the Whitbread.

There is a lot of truth in what they say, but five days on the deck rail? Forget it. You cannot live on deck for five days. We expect to get Merit Cup into the watch routine within a few hours of clearing Sydney Heads at the entrance to the harbour on Sunday, and that is how we want it to stay for the following four days.

Not that we were expecting a

leisurely cruise home. In front of us is 1,270 nautical miles of ocean racing that will be as demanding as any I have ever been in before. I don't think that we will sail the boat any differently than in the longer legs, even though there will be extra intensity in the crew work - like all hands on deck for sail changes.

Leg three from Fremantle to Sydney showed just how close the racing can be in these boats at this level. So, it will be a tough leg. In this sort of fleet racing, these guys are not here to make friends.

The leg to Auckland will not be as demanding tactically as the one to Sydney. Basically

navigators draw a straight line between Sydney and the North Cape of New Zealand. Depending on the weather, your course will be north or south of the line, or even right down the middle.

However, there will be a right way and a wrong way. And that will be apparent as the fleet converges on New Zealand.

From North Cape it is down the east coast to Auckland. And, despite what the experts say, local knowledge doesn't count for much in the dash down the coast. The island is narrow north of Auckland and there is no sea breeze as such. One thing is for sure, every-

one will be on deck for the final 24 hours it will take to sail down that east coast.

A downwind leg would be great, but the chances of that are almost zero. It is more likely to be light to moderate, sailing either hard on the wind, or just cracked off on a tight reach.

The New Zealanders on board Merit Cup are keen to get home. Most of us have been away since late June or early July. Three weeks in Auckland will be wonderful. The leg into Auckland has a special place for New Zealanders. But in the back of my mind is the knowledge that it won't be easy getting there, and that is a worry for me.

I have been in some tight finishes into Auckland. In 1990, as skipper on board Fisher & Paykel New Zealand, we dived with Peter Blake on Steinlager 2 right down that coast and he got the better of a squall just a few miles from the finish.

Then, in 1994, New Zealand Endeavour and Tokyo fought it out metre by metre to be first into Auckland. It is something I will never forget. It was well after midnight and there must have been more than 3,000 small boats waiting for the yachts. Some people in launches had followed us for more than 100 miles and, depending on who was doing the counting,

25,000 people were waiting at Viaduct Quay.

The breeze was light and fluky. My maxi's huge sails were barely filling and the finish line seemed so far away. More to the point, Chris Dickson and his Whitbread 60 Tokyo were between us and the line. Then we got a few puffs and took Dickson on the inside. It was a very sweet victory.

It was about that time that I started to get a reputation for tight finishes. But it is not by choice. When Dickson pulled out of this Whitbread in Cape Town, my first thought was that we would not be able to do a replay of that finish. We had been rather looking forward to it.

However, this fleet is so tight, it will probably happen anyway.

For this leg we will have Tom Dodson - a renowned yachtsman with a string of international successes to his name - on board. When we were doing the planning for this round the world race, it was apparent that the shorter legs would require additional skills. Tom will also sail with us on the short legs from Fort Lauderdale to Baltimore and from La Rochelle to the finish at Southampton.

We are looking for a top three result on this leg. Fourth place in the last leg put us back in the running, but what we need are consistently good results from here on in.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Arnold boosts Huddersfield's ambitions

Dave Hadfield  
Huddersfield ..... 24  
Halifax ..... 24

Two late tries from Danny Arnold, one of the players signed this winter in preparation for Super League, gave Huddersfield a draw with their neighbours that can only help their confidence when they start the season in earnest.

The late salvage operation gave the newly elevated club a share of the revived Huddersfield Infirmary Cup. More importantly, it showed their supporters that during the Boxing Day débacle against Warrington they are at least going to have a stab at being competitive.

Huddersfield were well in the game throughout the first half and retook the lead when Paul Cook scored a spectacular 80-yard try early in the second.

However, the difference in the level of concentration required in moving up from the First Division seemed to have found them out when the defence opened up to allow Martin Pearson and Danny Seal through for tries.

But then Arnold, a £50,000 recruit from St Helens, burst into life. After having one try disallowed for a forward pass, he struck in the 73rd and 78th minutes, getting over from close range on both occasions despite the presence of defensive cover.

"I was very pleased with the way Danny took his tries," the new Huddersfield coach, Garry Schofield, said. "That's why we were keen to bring him here. He's got plenty of speed and knows his way to the try-line."

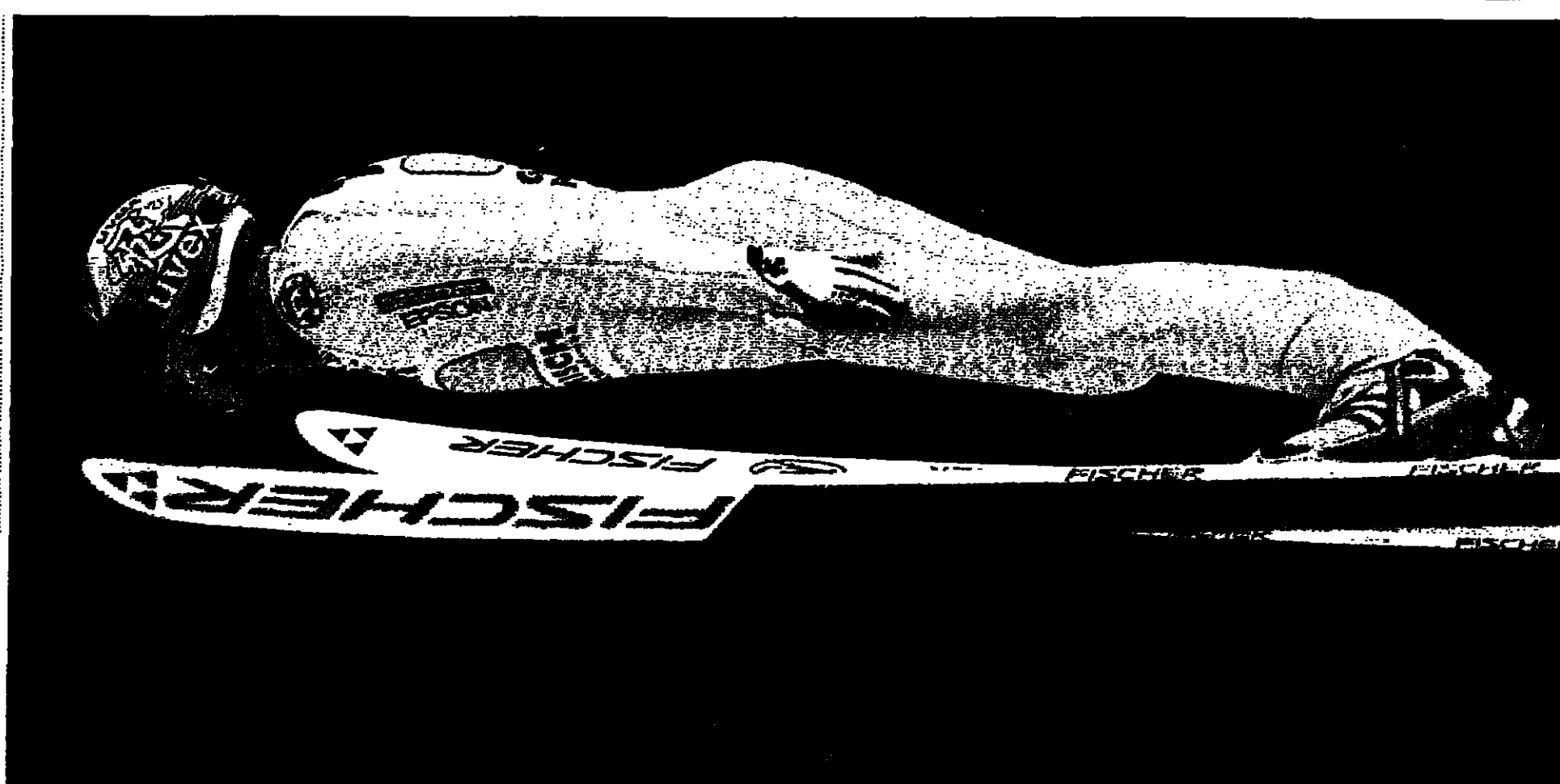
It was unfortunate for Huddersfield that Cook, another player of proven quality on whom they will be relying next season, failed so narrowly with both kicks, hitting the post with the first and seeing the second drift inches wide. But a draw was a fair outcome of a game contested with more commitment than the average friendly and in which both sides had shown plenty of enterprising play.

Halifax, one of the few Super League sides who look potentially weaker on paper this year, must hope that a new influx of Australians will lift them when the serious competition starts. Huddersfield's opponents, Burnley, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Hull, Wigan, Rochdale, Salford, St Helens, Warrington, and Wigan, are all in the top 10 of the league. Huddersfield's opponents, Burnley, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Hull, Wigan, Rochdale, Salford, St Helens, Warrington, and Wigan, are all in the top 10 of the league.

## TODAY'S NUMBER

## 50

The number of years since James Alexander Gordon, who reads the football results on BBC's Sports Report, saw a live game. Gordon, 62, who has read the results for 25 years, last attended a match at Brockville Park to see Falkirk play Celtic at the age of 12.



Flight path: Kazuyoshi Funaki of Japan soars through the air on his way to victory in the second round of the Four Hills ski-jumping competition at Garmisch-Partenkirchen yesterday. The tournament is held in the two German resorts of Garmisch and Oberstdorf, and Innsbruck and Bischofshofen in Austria. Photograph: Wolfgang Ratzky/Reuters

## BASKETBALL

## Storm coach resigns in anger

Steve Tucker, the Derby Storm coach, resigned from the Budweiser League club yesterday and accused top players and bosses of ruining the sport in England.

Tucker is returning to Mississippi to rehabilitate from severe backaches caused by a car accident in January. But another reason for his departure is the "disgust" he feels for the approach of English basketball.

"I will never come back to England to coach," he said. Tucker claimed that teams are not competing on a level playing field and rapped the League for not strictly enforcing the £140,000 salary cap. "I'm dis-

gusted the big teams don't honour the salary cap. If they're going to have one, they have to enforce it," he said.

The London Towers coach, Kevin Cadle, and the Leopards chief Billy Mims, both television pundits for Sky Sports, were two further targets for Tucker's anger. Tucker also criticised the English Basketball Association for failing to give the England coach, Laszlo Nemei, the support he needs to build a strong England team.

Jeff Jones will stand in as Derby's coach for tonight's trip to Newcastle and this weekend's games only.

## ATHLETICS

## Skah ordered to training camp

Khalid Skah's participation in tomorrow's international cross-country meet in County Durham is in doubt after he was ordered home by the Moroccan Athletic Federation.

Skah has been told by his national governing body that he must join up with his Moroccan team-mates at a training camp. Morocco is hosting this year's World Cross-Country Championships in March and the Moroccans are keen to end Kenya's domination of the event.

Skah contacted Durham organisers telling them of the problem, although he insisted that he will not accept the demands

made on him and is asking his federation for an official reason why he must return home.

Skah, who has won the individual world cross-country titles in 1990 and 1991, would love to achieve a third victory on home soil, but said that to achieve that aim it is only logical that he should be allowed to take part in IAAF World Cross-Country events such as Durham.

Nigel Gough, the Durham race director, said: "Khalid is extremely upset at what is going on and he just cannot understand why he's being told that he cannot race in Durham or anywhere else."

## CRICKET

## India may sack Tendulkar

Indian cricket, which has slid to abysmal levels in the past year, faces its first crisis of the new year yesterday amid speculation that Sachin Tendulkar may be sacked as captain.

Indian selectors have reportedly lost patience with the talented 24-year-old batsman, who failed to lead India to a win in 12 Tests in 1997 and managed just 10 victories in 39 one-day internationals.

The selectors meet today to choose a captain and team for a three-nation limited-overs tournament in Bangladesh this month.

Ramakant Desai, the chair-

man of selectors, denied rumours that Tendulkar had offered to step down. "Sachin has not told us he wants to quit as captain. Whatever the decision, it will be entirely ours," he said.

Under Tendulkar, who became captain in August 1996, India have won just three of their 17 Tests and 17 of 54 one-dayers. His last Test win was at home in December 1996 against South Africa, before India were beaten in away series in South Africa, the West Indies and Sri Lanka.

India face their arch rivals Pakistan and Bangladesh in a one-day tournament from 10 to 19 January in Dhaka.

## YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

**CATERICK**  
12.50: 1. KEY GRIP (G F Ryan) 3-9-9; 2. George Dillingham 11-2; 3. Point Duty 4-10; 4. 10. 2/5; 5. 2/5; 6. 2/5; 7. 2/5; 8. 2/5; 9. 2/5; 10. 2/5; 11. 2/5; 12. 2/5; 13. 2/5; 14. 2/5; 15. 2/5; 16. 2/5; 17. 2/5; 18. 2/5; 19. 2/5; 20. 2/5; 21. 2/5; 22. 2/5; 23. 2/5; 24. 2/5; 25. 2/5; 26. 2/5; 27. 2/5; 28. 2/5; 29. 2/5; 30. 2/5; 31. 2/5; 32. 2/5; 33. 2/5; 34. 2/5; 35. 2/5; 36. 2/5; 37. 2/5; 38. 2/5; 39. 2/5; 40. 2/5; 41. 2/5; 42. 2/5; 43. 2/5; 44. 2/5; 45. 2/5; 46. 2/5; 47. 2/5; 48. 2/5; 49. 2/5; 50. 2/5; 51. 2/5; 52. 2/5; 53. 2/5; 54. 2/5; 55. 2/5; 56. 2/5; 57. 2/5; 58. 2/5; 59. 2/5; 60. 2/5; 61. 2/5; 62. 2/5; 63. 2/5; 64. 2/5; 65. 2/5; 66. 2/5; 67. 2/5; 68. 2/5; 69. 2/5; 70. 2/5; 71. 2/5; 72. 2/5; 73. 2/5; 74. 2/5; 75. 2/5; 76. 2/5; 77. 2/5; 78. 2/5; 79. 2/5; 80. 2/5; 81. 2/5; 82. 2/5; 83. 2/5; 84. 2/5; 85. 2/5; 86. 2/5; 87. 2/5; 88. 2/5; 89. 2/5; 90. 2/5; 91. 2/5; 92. 2/5; 93. 2/5; 94. 2/5; 95. 2/5; 96. 2/5; 97. 2/5; 98. 2/5; 99. 2/5; 100. 2/5; 101. 2/5; 102. 2/5; 103. 2/5; 104. 2/5; 105. 2/5; 106. 2/5; 107. 2/5; 108. 2/5; 109. 2/5; 110. 2/5; 111. 2/5; 112. 2/5; 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## TODAY'S PICK

**The Face** (7.30pm BBC2) It is appropriate that, in a story of two characters climbing a wall of rock, the film should be set in a place where they should forget their toothbrushes. Nancy Feagin and Barry Blanton are flown deep into Canada's north-west territory to climb the wet, steep Mount Probus, a daunting task which has never been climbed before. This bumbling film, the first in a series of six, is a tale of daring, bravery and the reluctance of people to exchange implements of personal hygiene, even if they are several thousand feet up in the air.

**Stella Street** (10.15pm BBC2) What on first viewing appeared to be a mere forum for a few camped-up impressions turned into a wonderfully silly series which, sadly, comes to an end tonight as Phil Cornwell and John Sessions's celebrity-rich Surbiton finally implodes under the weight of its own egos. No match for last night's episode (in which Jimmy Hill popped round to Al Pacino's to borrow a cake nozzle and Joe Pesci had a lobotomy) but still top entertainment.



Sessions and Cornwell: 'Stella Street', BBC2

## THE FILM

**Nosferatu, a Symphony of Horrors** (1.05pm C4) A television premiere for FW Murnau's 1922 silent classic, a vampire tale which drew heavily from *Dracula*. Francis Ford Coppola called it "the greatest movie ever made on the Dracula theme" and this is due in part to Murnau's photographic brilliance and his feel for the essence of his subject. So what if he stole Bram Stoker's plot and was sued by Stoker's widow for his trouble; he more than anyone captured the terror of the story. Max Schreck's cadaverous Count is a fearful creation, still scary after all these years.

## BBC1

- 6.40 Faces of Islam** (S) (2052937). 7.00 News: Weather (T) (8891753).
- 7.10 Children's BBC:** Pudding Peas (T) (1275802). 7.15 Teletubbies (S) (2024588). 7.40 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (R) (S) (8453531). 8.05 Casper Classics (T) (7621753). 8.30 Mighty Max (R) (S) (4567531). 8.55 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (R) (4566666). 9.20 Blue Peter Review of the Year (S) (T) (3041840). 9.50 Teletubbies (S) (2126173).
- 10.20 News: Weather** (T) (8306463).
- 10.30 The Shaggy DA** (Robert Stevenson 1978 US). Pleasant Disney comedy about a lawyer who finds an ancient ring which turns him into a shaggy sheep dog (63668).
- 12.00 The Good Life** (R) (T) (22227). 12.30 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (S) (25802). 1.00 News (T) (2780302). 1.15 Neighbours (S) (T) (1180886).
- 1.40 Suburban Commando** (Burt Kennedy 1991 US). American wrestler Hulk Hogan acquires himself well as an alien who crash-lands in suburban America. Christopher Lloyd is his excellent self as the dad of the family he comes to stay with (S) (T) (3638734).
- 3.00 News: Weather** (T) (S) (32600).
- 3.30 Star Trek: The Next Generation** (William Shatner 1989 US). An adventure too far for the perceptive astronaut with Captain Kirk going all deep on us. A disappointment which may upset fans (S) (T) (441482).
- 5.10 Children's BBC:** Blue Peter (S) (T) (782918).
- 5.35 Neighbours** (S) (T) (298024).
- 5.50 News: Weather** (T) (936173).
- 6.15 Regional News** (T) (94956).
- 6.30 Rent-a-Kid** (Fred Garber 1995 Can). Christopher Lloyd again, this time with Leslie Nielsen in a pleasant comedy about a businessman (Nielsen) who rents out orphans to prospective parents (S) (T) (440043).
- 7.55 Only Fools and Horses.** Del's application for a home-improvement grant is turned down by the local council (R) (S) (T) (428337).
- 8.55 Hasty Pudding Investigates.** The case of the expelled nephew (S) (T) (790025).
- 9.45 News: Weather** (T) (778598).
- 10.05 Shirley Bassey: This Is My Life** (S) (203376).
- 10.50 International Come Dancing.** From the Royal Albert Hall (S) (71314).
- 11.50 Carry On Behind** (Gerald Thomas 1975 UK). Professor Crump enlists a band of students to excavate a Roman encampment in Britain. Below-par Carry-ons (T) (350208).
- 1.20 Story of a Love Story** (John Frankenheimer 1973 Fr). A writer living in Paris with his American wife and three sons falls madly in love with a girl he meets in a museum (574390).
- 3.00 Joins BBC News 24** (3597399). To 7am.

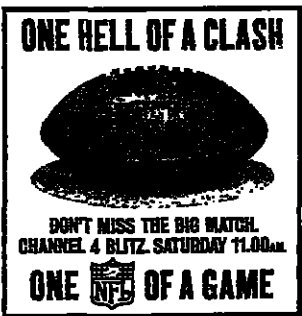
REGIONS: Scotland 6.30 Are You Being Served? 7.00 PM: Rent-a-Kid 8.25-8.55 The Woman Who... 10.50 Fringe Sportszone 11.35 International Come Dancing

## BBC2

- 6.55 Each Dawn I Die** (William Keighly 1939 US). James Cagney as a pugnacious newspaper reporter in a punchy melodrama (5467531).
- 8.20 The Roaring Twenties** (Raoul Walsh 1939 US). Cagney again in a splendid gangster movie screened far too early in the day (11447918).
- 10.05 The Art of Singing** (S) (2136821).
- 11.05 The Great Caruso** (Richard Thorpe 1951 US). Superb and sentimental musical biography of the legendary tenor Enrico Caruso, focusing on his romance with Dorothy Brainerd. Starring the silver-haired Mario Lanza. (81672802).
- 12.50 The Art of Singing** (S) (6186173). 1.50 James Stewart - The Last of the Good Guys (R) (S) (T) (3678376).
- 2.40 Winchester '73** (Anthony Mann 1950 US). James Stewart is the sharp-shooter tracking his father's murderer who wins the eponymous gun in a shooting contest. A long chase for the stolen rifle ends with a nifty gun battle. A lean and moody outing from Stewart (7140460).
- 4.10 Strategic Air Command** (Anthony Mann 1955 US). Saga most notable for its dramatic aerial shots of US Air Force bombers. James Stewart plays a professional baseball player recalled to military service because of the flying skills he acquired during World War Two. (49088918).
- 6.00 The Simpsons** (R) (S) (T) (681111).
- 6.20 Star Trek** (R) (T) (263395).
- 7.15 Electric Circus** (S) (706314).
- 7.30 The Face.** See Today's Pick, above (T) (85).
- 8.00 The Fred Dibnah Show.** Kicking off a new screening of steeplejack highlights, including the job that made him famous (R) (S) (T) (2531).
- 8.30 Gardeners' World** (S) (T) (1666).
- 9.00 Blackadder's Christmas Carol.** Rerun seasonal comedy special, set in 1850. On Christmas Eve, just as he has tucked himself into bed, Ebenezer Blackadder's relatives decide to pay him a visit (R) (S) (T) (428337).
- 9.45 Game On.** Flat comedy series about three flatmates (S) (T) (665821).
- 10.05 Stella Street.** See Today's Pick, above (S) (T) (838482).
- 10.30 The Armistice Party Bucket.** Highlights from the festive satirical comedy show on television, Friday Night Armistice. Starring Armando Iannucci, Peter Baynham and David Schneider. (S) (T) (55078).
- 11.00 Gary Larson's Tales from the Far Side.** Award-winning animated version of the famous cartoons (R) (S) (3005).
- 11.30 Bodies, Rest and Motion** (Michael Steinberg 1993 US). Roger Hadden adapted his own play about four soul-searching twentysomethings living in Arizona who attempt to untangle their lives. Tim Roth, Eric Stoltz and Bridget Fonda star in a film which is a little too chilled-out to keep our interest (21444).
- 1.00 Clive Barker's A-Z of Horror** (T) (1051574). 1.45 The Cask of Amontillado (S) (886406). To 2.10am

## ITV

- 6.00 GMTV** (8357227). 9.25 The Fantastic Voyages of Sirbaid the Sailor (S) (5042578). 9.55 London Today (T) (8565376). 10.00 Freetime (S) (720208). 10.30 Cartoon Time (4161289).
- 10.50 Bingo** (Matthew Robbins 1991 US). Syrupy kiddie comedy drama in which an abandoned circus dog is taken in by a young boy. Don't allow yourself to be (S) (T) (3038024).
- 12.20 Your Shout** (1984-88). 12.30 News: Weather (T) (705840). 12.55 London Today (T) (8217005).
- 1.30 Airport '80 - the Concorde** (David Lowell Rick 1978 US). High camp and mid-air shenanigans on board a Concorde flight from Washington to Moscow with members of the Russian and American Olympic teams on board. Stop the deliberate mistake (S) (T) (41847).
- 3.30 ITN News Headlines** (T) (6340043).
- 3.45 London Today** (T) (6280273).
- 3.45 Bronco Billy** (Clint Eastwood 1980 US). Clint stars in this gentle parody of himself as a shop salesman turned sharpshooting, knife-throwing cowboy (S) (T) (101227).
- 5.40 News: Weather** (T) (171918).
- 6.00 London Weekend Tonight** (T) (447289).
- 6.10 Terrors of the Deep** (R) (512173).
- 7.00 Bruce's Price Is Right** (S) (T) (5127).
- 7.30 Coronation Street.** Deirdre struggles to pick up the pieces. Cheer up chuck - to borrow a line from Jagged Edge: "Forget him, he was trash." (T) (11).
- 8.00 The Bill** (T) (9685).
- 8.30 Blind Men** (S) (T) (8192).
- 9.00 The Distinguished Gentleman** (Jonathan Lynn 1992 US). Eddie Murphy hilariously represses his Trading Places role in this often amusing political satire (S) (T) (7550).
- 11.00 ITN News: Weather.** (T) (467482).
- 11.15 London Weekend Tonight** (T) (447289).
- 11.25 Harmful Intent** (John Patterson 1993 US). So-so thriller about a doctor and former morphine addict accused of murder (S) (T) (923175).
- 1.10 Box Office America** (5532715).
- 2.10 Deadly Encounter** (William A. Graham 1972 US). Larry Hagman fails to convince as a veteran combat pilot in Mexico (S) (602406).
- 3.50 Rockmania** (R) (S) (742808). 4.45 ITN Sports: Class vs 5.00 News: Weather (S) (6582176). 5.30 News (S) (6582176). To 6am



ONE HELL OF A CLASH  
DON'T MISS THE BIG MATCH  
CHANNEL 4 SATURDAY 11.00am  
ONE HELL OF A GAME

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Sesame Street** (S) (42227). 7.00 The Babybustlers' Club (R) (4454005).
- 7.30 Two Stupid Dogs** (S) (8489956).
- 8.00 The Big Breakfast** (S) (67463).
- 10.00 Zig and Zag's Big Morning.** Happy Days (8054173). 10.35 Zig and Zag's Big Morning: Saved by the Bell: Wedding in Las Vegas (R) (S) (T) (8335005). 11.05 Zig and Zag's Big Morning: Moesha (S) (5508024). 11.30 Zig and Zag's Big Morning: The Monkees (S) (514550). 12.05 Zig and Zag's Big Morning: Coping with... (S) (1819550). 12.35 Zig and Zag's Big Morning: Coping with... (S) (7081918).
- 1.05 Nosteratu** (FW Murnau 1922). See Today's Pick, above (6887043).
- 2.45 How to Marry a Millionaire** (Jean Negulesco 1953 US). Witty tale about three beautiful models (Marilyn Monroe, Lauren Bacall and Betty Grable) who move into a plush New York apartment with a plan to land a lot of millions. It's no *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, but Monroe stands out as a myopic bimbo (T) (6807043).
- 4.30 Countdown** (S) (T) (24).
- 5.00 Ricki Lake.** Fat is the studio audience issue (T) (1043).
- 5.30 Outis in Women's Lives** (R) (T) (76).
- 6.00 Best of TFI Friday** (S) (T) (26531).
- 7.00 News: Weather** (T) (8579).
- 7.30 The Typewriter, the Rifle and the Movie Camera.** Intriguing documentary screened as a tribute to writer, producer and director Sam Fuller, who died earlier last year. It features an interview with Fuller by actor Tim Robbins while hipsters such as Quentin Tarantino, Jim Jarmusch and Martin Scorsese queue up to pay tribute to the old timer (R) (S) (T) (98799).
- 8.30 Brookside.** Jackie lets Lindsay that slaying with bad boy Barry will lead to heartache (S) (T) (6734).
- 9.00 Mary Shelley's Frankenstein** (Kenneth Branagh 1994 US). Our ken took too much with Mary Shelley's tale - as director, co-producer and star the film slips away, with only De Niro putting in a monster performance. Helena Bonham Carter, Richard E. Grant, Robert Hardy and John Cleese are among the cast who fail to deliver, but the back story, with Branagh whose over-ambitious effort, rather muddies the point (T) (4503338).
- 11.20 Bill Bailey Live.** The talented musician/comedian live from London's Bloomsbury theatre (S) (256482).
- 12.25 Film: Countess Dracula** (Peter Sasdy 1979 UK). Hammer horror yarn in which an ageing Hungarian countess bathes in the blood of slain virgins to preserve her beauty (T) (761203).
- 2.05 Film: Shock Corridor** (Samuel Fuller 1963 US). Powerful melodrama about a reporter's obsession with winning the Pulitzer Prize (T) (747345).
- 4.00 Film: Park Row** (Samuel Fuller 1952 US). Newspaper drama set in the 1890s about an editor whose efforts to establish his own paper are challenged by a former publisher's dirty-tricks campaign (298853).
- 5.40 Terrytoons** (S) (653351). To 6am

## CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Dappledown Farm** (R) (6687024).
- 6.30 Wind in the Willows** (56622024).
- 6.50 Mr Men and Little Miss** (S) (9459918). 7.00 Wizzle's House (R) (6522173). 7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (6541208). 8.00 HavaKazoo (R) (S) (7277802). 8.30 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (R) (S) (7276173).
- 9.00 Stickin' Around** (R) (7290753).
- 9.30 Wishbone** (R) (6782901). 10.00 Enid Blyton - The Secret Mountain (75711005). 11.00 Animal Xfiles (6365802). 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (7287289). 12.30 Family Affairs (S) (T) (894727). 1.00 5 News Update (S) (76397956).
- 1.05 Sunset Beach.** Olivia tries to stop Cole spilling the beans about their affair in the winningly dreadful US soap (S) (T) (9150531).
- 2.00 Animal Xfiles** (73365598).
- 2.10 The Yearling** (Rod Hardy 1994 US). Sugary remake of the well-regarded 1964 version, the louching story of a young boy from a poor family who befriends a deer. His parents allow him to keep the orphaned lawn, but when it begins eating their crops, an appointment is swiftly made at the abattoir (6777340).
- 4.05 Film: Witness for the Prosecution** (Alan Gibson 1982 US). Melodrama version remake of Billy Wilder's nail-biting courtroom drama with Diana Rigg slipping comfortably into Marlene Dietrich's shoes. (95386442).
- 6.00 100 Per Cent** (S) (6203395).
- 6.30 Family Affairs.** Maria and Mel discover that Duncan's theme bar has gone bust, poor old (S) (T) (6294647).
- 7.00 Family Affairs - The Story So Far.** How time flies - the bland soap celebrates its 20th episode and this is a "fun-filled frolic" through the lives and loves of the characters during their first nine months (S) (T) (807024).
- 7.30 Exclusive** (S) (8265331).
- 8.00 Name That Tune.** With host Joos Holland (S) (9053444).
- 8.30 5 News including First on Five** (S) (T) (9072578).
- 9.00 Film: The Other Mother** (Bethany Rooney 1995 US). The winning combination of television movie and true story that Channel Five is so fond of. This one follows a woman's struggle to find the son taken away from her as a teen mum (8731935).
- 10.50 La Femme Nikita.** When Birkoff panics on a mission, Section One considers killing him. (562444).
- 11.45 Film: Full Exposure: the Sex Tapes Scandal** (Noel Nossek 1999 US). Very poor thriller about the murder of a high-class prostitute and the theft of her video diary of clients (8147540).
- 1.35 Film: Wings of Eagles** (6707116).
- 3.20 Film: Money** (Richard Linklater 1995 US). Taut western in which a detective searches for the beneficiaries listed in the will of a murdered professor. (68003086).
- 4.45 Night Stand** (1164222).
- 5.30 100 Per Cent** (R) (S) (6651809). To 6am

## ANGLIA

- As Carlton except:** 9.55 Anglia News and Weather (6555376). 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (7198428). 12.55 What's My Line? (5217005). 3.40 Anglia News and Weather (6555376). 6.00 The Baby Man (47). 6.30 Anglia News (27). 11.15 Anglia News and Weather (748889). 12.00 Entertainment Now (7204767). 2.05 Film: Dead Cert (821970). 3.50 ITV at the Reading Festival (7476880). 4.45 Sound Bites (9323426). 5.00 Coronation Street (80715). 5.30 ITN Morning News (16067).
- Central**
- As Carlton except:** 9.55 Central News (6555376). 12.20 Central News and Weather (7198428). 12.55 What's My Line? (5217005). 3.40 Central News and Weather (6555376). 6.00 The Baby Man (47). 6.30 Central News (27). 11.15 Central News and Weather (748889). 12.00 Entertainment Now (7204767). 2.05 Film: Dead Cert (821970). 3.50 ITV at the Reading Festival (7476880). 4.45 Sound Bites (9323426). 5.00 Coronation Street (80715). 5.30 ITN Morning News (16067).
- HTV Wales**
- As Carlton except:** 9.55 HTV News (8555376). 12.20 HTV News (7198428). 12.55 Drosyns (2343260). 1.30 Warner Brothers Cartoon (8917733). 3.40 HTV News (7076840). 6.00 Murder, She Wrote (523288). 6.50 Wales Tonight (52918). 11.15 HTV News (748889). 12.00 Entertainment Now (7204767). 2.05 Film: Dead Cert (821970). 3.50 ITV at the Reading Festival (7476880). 4.45 Sound Bites (9323426). 5.00 Coronation Street (80715). 5.30 ITN Morning News (16067).
- HTV West**
- As HTV Wales except:** 12.20 News: Weather (7198428). 6.30 The West Tonight (7198428). 11.15 The West Tonight Update (748889).
- Meridian**
- As Carlton except:** 9.55 Meridian News and Weather (8555376). 12.20 Meridian News and Weather (7198428). 12.55 Shortland Street (5217005). 3.40 Meridian News and Weather (6555376). 6.00 Meridian News (27). 11.15 Meridian News and Weather (748889). 12.00 Entertainment Now (7204767). 2.05 Film: Dead Cert (821970). 3.50 ITV at the Reading Festival (7476880). 4.45 Sound Bites (9323426). 5.00 Coronation Street (80715). 5.30 ITN Morning News (16067).
- Westcountry**
- As Carlton except:** 9.55 Westcountry News (8555376). 12.20 Westcountry News (7198428). 12.55 Emmerdale (5217005). 3.40 Westcountry News (6555376). 6.00 Westcountry News (27). 11.15 Westcountry News and Weather (748889). 12.00 Entertainment Now (7204767). 2.05 Film: Dead Cert (821970). 3.50 ITV at the Reading Festival (7476880). 4.45 Sound Bites (9323426). 5.00 Coronation Street (80715). 5.30 ITN Morning News (16067).
- Yorkshire/North East**
- As Carlton except:** 9.55 Regional News and Weather (8555376). 12.20 Regional News and Weather (7198428). 12.55 Emmerdale (5217005). 3.40 Regional News (6555376). 6.00 Regional News and Weather (748889). 12.00 Entertainment Now (7204767). 2.05 Film: Dead Cert (821970). 3.50 ITV at the Reading Festival (7476880). 4.45 Sound Bites (9323426). 5.00 Coronation Street (80715). 5.30 ITN Morning News (16067).
- S4C**
- As Channel 4 except:** 12.35 Zig and Zag's Big Morning: Coping with... (7075753). 1.00 Slot Machine (T) (Rings a Bells). 1.30 The Railway Children (42859). 2.00 Team Spirit (67293). 3.00 5 Pump: Penfold's (4052579). 3.35 5 Pump: Cefallan (5702227). 4.40 Cefallan's Bye Bye Eu Hannebelle (165230). 5.00 Newyddion 6 (6555376). 6.00 Heno (540343). 7.00 Pobl y Cwm (418647). 7.25 Croft y Ffawdwy (7807111). 8.30 Cefn Gwlad (7341). 9.00 Egonur (5500408). 10.00 Brookside (677337). 10.35 The M.A.M. Vice (5651645). 11.45 - 7.00 Shopping at Night (7345702).
- Living**
- 6.00 Tiny Living** (7757382). 9.00 Living Show (6669181). 9.55 Hail to Har! (6520314). 10.30 Jerry Springer Uncut (5334428). 11.00 The Young and the Restless (1506734). 11.55 Mysteries: Magic and Miracles (1216562). 12.25 Jimmy's (680730). 1.00 Cheap Chic (6217043). 1.30 Tempest (4727127). 2.00 Ready Steady Go! (5889734). 3.00 Cuckoo! It's a Mystery (64874005). 4.30 Jerry Springer Show (6214733). 5.00 Rhonda (554024). 6.00 Cheap Chic (230267). 6.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (787537). 7.00 Rescue 911 (541624). 7.30 Mysteries: Magic and Miracles (7025197). 8.00 Jimmy Springer Uncut (5334428). 9.00 Magic Story (584827). 11.00 The Six Zone (289182). 12.00 Close
- Live TV**
- 6.00 Living Room Legends** 6.30 Agony 7.00 Deal-a-Dice 7.30 Nation LIVE 8.30 The Fashion Show 8.50 Agony 9.30 Living Room Legends 9.50 Agony 10.30 Nation LIVE 11.00 The Why Files? 12.30 Revelations 1.00 Live Detector 1.30 Agony 2.00 The Fashion Show 2.30 Revelations 3.00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Chat Chat 4.00 Living Room Legends 4.30 The Fashion Show 5.00 Agony 5.30 Live Detector 6.00 Living Room Legends 6.30 Agony 7.00 Deal-a-Dice 7.30 Nation LIVE 8.30 The Fashion Show 8.50 Agony 9.30 Living Room Legends 9.50 Agony 10.30 Nation LIVE 11.00 The Why Files? 12.30 Revelations 1.00 Live Detector 1.30 Agony 2.00 The Fashion Show 2.30 Revelations 3.00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Chat Chat 4.00 Living Room Legends 4.30 The Fashion Show 5.00 Agony 5.30 Live Detector 6.00 Living Room Legends 6.30 Agony 7.00 Deal-a-Dice 7.30 Nation LIVE 8.30 The Fashion Show 8.50 Agony 9.30 Living Room Legends 9.50 Agony 10.30 Nation LIVE 11.00 The Why Files? 12.30 Revelations 1.00 Live Detector 1.30 Agony 2.00 The Fashion Show 2.30 Revelations 3.00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Chat Chat 4.00 Living Room Legends 4.30 The Fashion Show 5.00 Agony 5.30 Live Detector 6.00 Living Room Legends 6.30 Agony 7.00 Deal-a-Dice 7.30 Nation LIVE 8.30 The Fashion Show 8.50 Agony 9.30 Living Room Legends 9.50 Agony 10.30 Nation LIVE 11.00 The Why Files? 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## Time for England to fulfil their greatest expectation

Not so long ago, tours to the West Indies were no more than exercises in damage limitation, where at times medical insurance appeared more essential than a bat. Times and the laws of cricket have changed however, and Derek Pringle says Michael Atherton's England team, who leave for the Caribbean tomorrow morning, have a realistic chance of returning in April as winners - providing they do not lose either of the first two Tests.

Unless you have unlimited wealth, or some serious firepower, the Caribbean is not the kind of place to live out your dreams. But while many have come to conquer, few, particularly visiting cricketers, have managed to leave as victors, and since 1968 only Australia and India have managed to beat the West Indies on home soil. It is a formidable record and one Michael Atherton's side must now overcome, if they are at last to be considered amongst the Test-playing elite.

With the Ashes out of reach, at least until this time next year, the next few months represent an opportunity to become the defining moment of Atherton's captaincy. Win, or at least draw, and England and their current leader can move forward with genuine optimism. Lose heavily, and the inertia caused by yet another failure abroad will surely have to be tackled by a change in direction and leadership, an option Atherton himself con-

sidered only a few months ago.

For England's captain, the situation promises to be far more tense than his last visit to these breezy isles four years ago. Then expectations were low, with a young England side and their fledgling captain travelling more in hope than conviction. This time, however, despite Ladbrokes making the West Indies 4-7 favourites (England are 7-2) for the series, the ports are good, despite Darren Gough's late withdrawal, a setback that should at least concentrate the minds of Andy Caddick and Dean Headley.

For one thing, Atherton is far more experienced (he has now captained England a year longer than it took him to attain an honours degree at Cambridge), and secondly, the West Indies are a weaker side, in some disarray after losing heavily in Pakistan.

Indeed, when England set off from Gatwick tomorrow bound for a fortnight's acclimatisation in Antigua, Atherton's men will have the best chance in two generations of breaching fortress Caribbean and winning the Wisden Trophy, a prize not seen in England since Raymond Illingworth hoisted it aloft at The Oval, almost 30 years ago.

To accomplish that they must consistently achieve two things: a first-innings total of at least 280 - Caribbean pitches rarely get better - and an ability to shackle and frustrate the West Indies batsman with disciplined bowling and ferocious fielding. It should help that nine of the 16-strong party toured there last time and know the score, although with some players forewarned is not always necessarily forearmed.

What they must categorically not do is lose the first Test at

Sabina Park in Kingston. Do that and those two ageing but experienced warhorses Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose (35 and 34 respectively) could well rouse themselves for one last hurrah. If they do, it could prove doubly disadvantageous, and instead of the two greener fast bowlers, Mervyn Dillon and Franklyn Rose, being put under pressure, they will get a far easier ride in the senior pair's slipstream.

Mind you, however well the pacemen bowl as a group, the recent laws on bouncer limitation mean they are unlikely to rival the menace of the fast bowling juggernauts of the past. Michael Holding, Andy Roberts, Colin Croft, Joel Garner, Malcolm Marshall and Patrick Patterson were all combined to formidable effect over the years, and with them operating session after session even the most unpromising situations were retrieved by their confidence-rupturing quick bowling.

England have several batsmen who play fast bowling well. Atherton has long found his best against the West Indies, and with Alec Stewart set to bat instead of keep - at least initially - he will have an opening partner capable of taking anything wayward with the new ball apart. Graham Thorpe, too, pulls and cuts well, and the home side may well have to resort to playing a leg-spinner, with Ravi Lewis the leading contender.

These days, with most pitches deadlier than they used to be, the bowlers need longer to bowl sides out, which means the batsmen tend to have to score their runs at a fair old lick, and why England's bowlers must be iron-willed in sticking to their length and line.

When Australia won in the Caribbean in April 1995, it was

not Shane Warne that held the key - Caribbean grounds are often too small for spinners to exert pressure - but the unstinting efforts of Australia's then second-choice seamers, Glenn McGrath, Paul Reiffel and Brendon Julian, were all thrown in at the deep end following injuries to Craig McDermott and Damien Fleming, a situation co-incidentally echoed by Gough's withdrawal a few days ago.

England can do likewise, providing Brian Lara does not take the game away from them as he did in the first two Tests four years ago when his pair of audacious run-a-ball centuries set up victory. Two down after two, and with the catastrophe of being bowled out for 46 in Trinidad to follow will surely have burned itself too deep into Atherton's memory to be repeated.

Currently troubled by what he sees as a plot to prevent him becoming captain, Lara is the one batsman on either side capable of total domination and of shaping the series. But while recent series have shown him to be fallible, his Test average against England is currently 91.94 - over twice as much as it is against other teams at 40.79. Pity the man who spills him in the gully early on.

Ironically, many believe - the selectors amongst them - that Lara would make a better captain than Walsh. Certainly Lara, captain of Trinidad since he was 20, hankers after the post and many feel if he were to be appointed that his innate confidence might rub off on the rest of the team.

That the West Indies Cricket Board took the contrary view before the debacle in Pakistan has bought about much ferment, and the old inter-island rivalries, patched over during the glory days, are once again beginning to simmer, with Jamaica, home to the board's chairman, Pat Rousseau, as well as the current skipper, Walsh, attracting most of the flak.

Clearly not everyone can be kept happy and although Walsh, ever the consummate professional, has stated he will play under any captain, the best way out might be to appoint someone like Jimmy Adams, although he too hails from Jamaica.

It is a rum old row and whichever way you look at it England's chances of a series victory could well be boosted by what looks to be an unavoidably controversial decision.



Chris Silverwood in the nets yesterday during his last session with the England A team at the Gymkhana Cricket Club in Nairobi. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

### ENGLAND SQUAD FOR WEST INDIES TOUR

**Mike Atherton** (Lancs) (captain) Age 29, Tests 73.  
**Nasser Hussain** (Essex) (vice-captain) Age 29, Tests 23.  
**Mark Butcher** (Surrey) Age 25, Tests 5.  
**Andy Caddick** (Somerset) Age 28, Tests 16.  
**Ashley Cowan** (Essex) Age 22, Tests 0.  
**John Crawley** (Lancs) Age 25, Tests 22.  
**Robert Croft** (Glamorgan) Age 27, Tests 10.  
**Angus Fraser** (Middlesex) Age 32, Tests 32.  
**Dean Headley** (Kent) Age 27, Tests 3.  
**Adam Hollis** (Surrey) Age 26, Tests 2.  
**Mark Ramprakash** (Middlesex) Age 28, Tests 20.  
**Chris Silverwood** (Yorkshire) Age 22, Tests 1.  
**Jack Russell** (Gloucestershire) Age 34, Tests 49.  
**Alec Stewart** (Surrey) Age 34, Tests 69.  
**Graham Thorpe** (Surrey) Age 28, Tests 43.  
**Phil Tufnell** (Middlesex) Age 31, Tests 28.

### TOUR ITINERARY

16-19 January v Jamaica Under-23 (Four days); 22-25 January v Jamaica (Four days); 29 January-2 February First Test (Jamaica); 6-9 February Four-day match (Trinidad and Tobago); 13-17 February Second Test (Trinidad and Tobago); 21-23 February Three-day match (Guyana); 27 February-3 March Third Test (Guyana); 7-9 March Three-day match (Barbados); 12-16 March Fourth Test (Barbados); 20-24 March Fifth Test (Antigua); 27 March v Vice-Chancellor's XI (Barbados) (One day); 29 March First one-day international (Barbados); 1 April Second one-day international (St Lucia); 4 April Third one-day international (St Vincent); 5 April Fourth one-day international (St Vincent); 8 April Fifth one-day international (Trinidad and Tobago).

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3497, Friday 2 January By Phil Thursday's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
11					12		
13		14	15	16			
17	18				19	20	21
22			23		24		
25				26			
27					28		

ACROSS  
1 Stone rotates unexpectedly (7)  
5 Bird associated with main area of Wales (7)  
9 Container is imported by mum from a European country (7)  
10 Ideal that brings some of you to piano-lessons (7)  
11 Town girl's manner of speaking (9)  
12 Second supplier of tickets is reliable (5)  
13 Jerks line into points (5)  
15 Involve child with story about Tom? (9)  
17 Player really paid for stirring up a rush team (9)  
19 Type of leather affected by sound (5)  
22 River runs hard in Spain (5)

DOWN  
1 Once again started everything in a rush (7)  
2 Argument - one with a lecturer about the inter-stellar region (7)  
3 Reverse part of formal dress (5)  
4 Goddess and Queen apparent in poet I had translated (9)  
5 Cheek, lip or neck? (5)

ACROSS  
1 TRAPDOOR UNLOAD  
2 SEAGRAM BRASSIACUS  
3 TUBEROSE  
4 SUBDUED GENERA  
5 SHORTRUN IMPALE  
6 O A A R N U  
7 COUNTRYRIERS DUTY  
8 K O I A A E I  
9 PATRON KANGAROO  
10 H Y G E L N

### DEREK PRINGLE'S FOUR TO FOLLOW THIS WINTER

**Mervyn Dillon**  
(Trinidad and Tobago)  
There is little doubt that the near impenetrability of West Indies cricket in the 1980s was built on lethal and accurate fast bowling. According to many, though, a dearth now threatens, or it would do had bowlers like Franklyn Rose and Mervyn Dillon not happened along. But while both have pace, it is the 23-year-old Dillon who really looks like one out of the old mould.

As you would expect from someone measuring 6ft 6in tall, he extracts plenty of bounce with his seamers and cutters. He is aggressive, too, and while others faltered on the bare pitch in Karachi, where West Indies lost their third Test in a row, Dillon took 5 for 11.

England, too, received a taster in Sharjah, where he bounced out Adam Hollis and Nick Knight. Given a freer reign in the Tests, we may once again hear the traditional truce of Caribbean 'chun music'. England's batsmen have been warned.

**Sherwin Campbell**  
(Barbados)  
Having missed out learning from batting at the other end to the master Desmond Haynes, Campbell has set about emulating him. Once a carefree strokeplayer, the 27-year-old opener is now content simply to anchor the innings and bat all day. According to his home crowd at the Kensington Oval, wild donkeys are easier to remove once he is set at the crease.

It is just as well, without his long gritty innings - he faced 690 balls in the three-match series as compared to the next highest of 280 by the wicketkeeper David Williams - West Indies would have lost even more heavily in Pakistan.

He does have weaknesses and a propensity to keep his weight on the back foot make him vulnerable to the swinging ball early on. He is also a compulsive hooker, which although providing a genuine line of enquiry for bowlers, can also prove expensive on the Caribbean's tiny grounds.

**Dean Headley**  
(Kent)  
Announced himself during the summer against Australia with a flurry of wickets at Old Trafford, where he showed a natural aptitude for dismissing left-handers: a useful knack as the West Indies may use as many as four in the top six.

A skiddy bowler, Headley may well take the new ball, although not in Jamaica, where he is already apprehensive over the reception that will greet him as he returns to the island that spawned his famous grandfather, George, as well as his father, Ron. England cannot afford nervous starters in what will undoubtedly be the most important Test of the series.

Nearly 28, Headley has much catching up to do if he is to have a fulfilling Test career. A fine fielder, a wandering mind and a fragile body are all that hold him back. As long as he stays fit and keeps his no-ball count to a minimum, any cheap fixes from the Sabina Park crowd will soon be forgotten.

**Adam Hollis**  
(Surrey)  
Passed over as one-day captain after leading England to victory in Sharjah, will only have made Adam Hollis doubly determined to carve a role for himself at Test level.

A batsman with more bottle than finesse - not a bad way round for things to be when facing the West Indies - it may be Hollis's bowling that helps clinch him the highly contested No 6 spot.

Unless England's bowling is given variety by making Alec Stewart keep wicket (not in plan A apparently), Hollis's medium-pace mix of swing, cutters and slower balls may prove the perfect foil with which to tempt and taunt the West Indian strokeplayers into injudicious risk-taking.

A natural optimist, he wants to be England's answer to Steve Waugh. If he performs half as well, his team will at last have an all-rounder worthy of a long-term place.

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